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KATE FLANNERY SEMMES

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DOROTHY H. STEWART

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

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Corrections per Mrs. Chas. Groves, cousin

page 1, line 9. should be Thomas, not James

page 1, third paragraph. John Flannery's mother was Hannah Hogan Flannery. She died 4 May 1887.

page 12, line 9. Should be Thomas, not James.

page 36, 4th line from bottom. Miss M.C. Hynes, not Mrs.; (sister to James Hynes, Alice's husband.

page 37. line 7. She left her house at 211 E. Charlton to Katherine D. Groves. The furnishings were left to Marguerite H. Doyle.

page 121, Chapter Two, note 2. Thomas Hines for James Hines, as Honora H. Norton's second husband.

Quinty H. Stewart
1/11/91

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ABSTRACT

Kate Flannery Semmes lived from 1868 to 1958. She was born into the Irish Catholic community of Savannah, Georgia. She inherited nearly a million dollars from her father, Captain John Flannery, a native of Ireland and citizen of Savannah, Georgia. She married Raphael Semmes of Mississippi and Atlanta, Georgia. They had no children. Both Mrs. Semmes and her father, Capt. Flannery, were awarded the "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifici" medal from the pope of the Roman Catholic Church for their benefactions to the Church. Kate Semmes was also the cousin and benefactress of the Southern author, Flannery O'Connor.

On Back

[Kate Flannery Semmes
Taken in the house of
Alice + James Hynes
Washington, Ga
Oct 1913

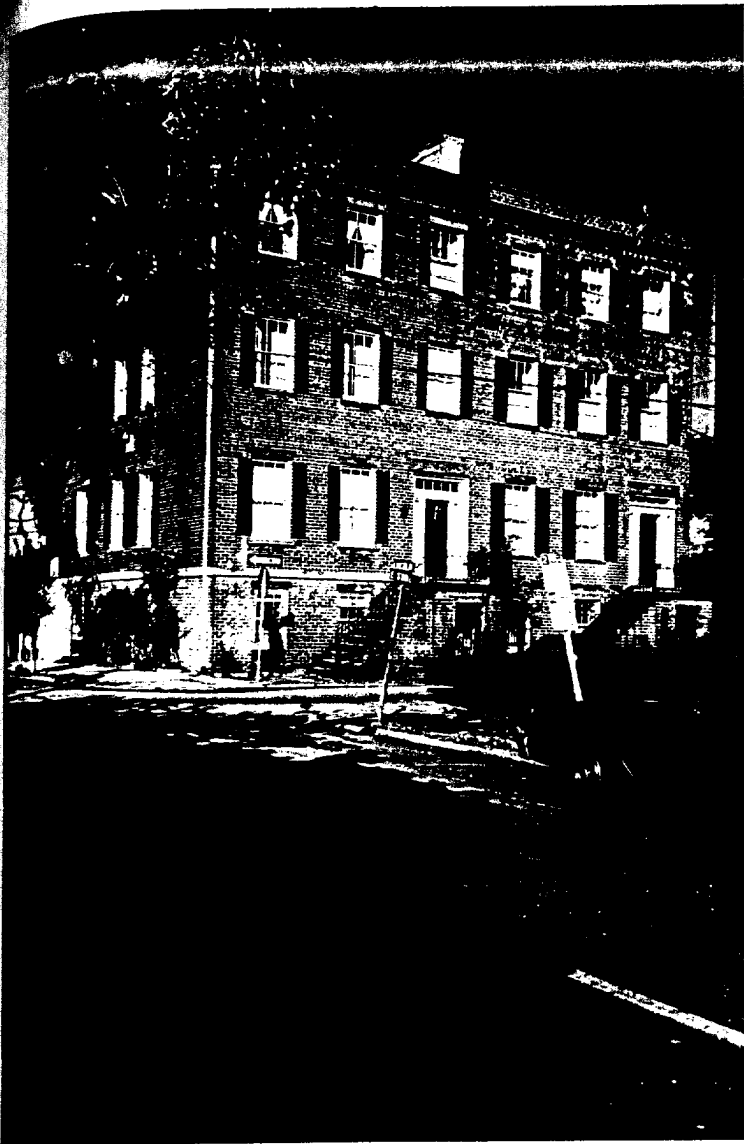


CHAPTER ONE
HER FAMILY OF ORIGIN;
HER BIRTH

It was the tenth of July, 1868,¹ and it was hot in Savannah, as usual. The Flannerys lived in a brick townhouse on State Street near Oglethorpe Square.² (See photographs on next page.) Her mother, Mary Ellen, was twenty-six year old.³ This was Mary Ellen's first baby, and she had her mother's sister, Aunt Kate,⁴ to manage things and help her. Aunt Kate and Uncle John McMahon had reared her since her father Patrick Norton died.⁵ Mary Ellen was to live with them even after her mother, Honoria Harty Norton, had remarried James Hines of Washington, Georgia.⁶

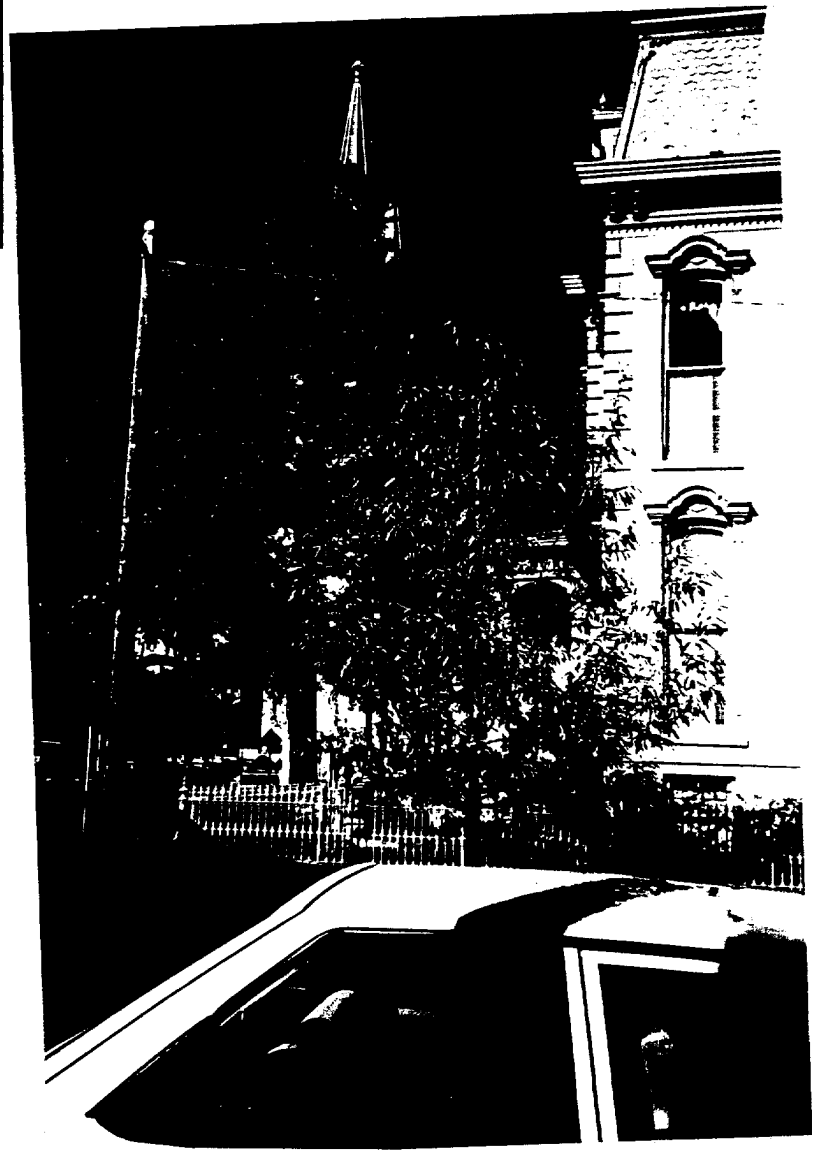
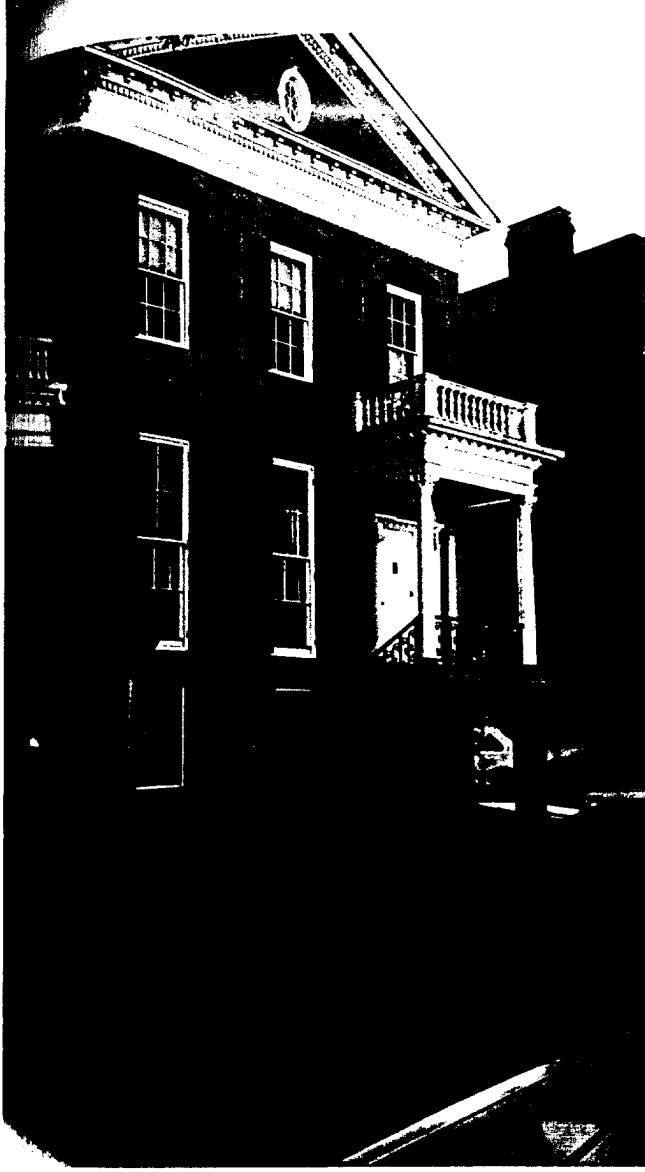
All of Aunt Kate's family, the Hartys, lived in or near Washington, Georgia, north of Augusta.⁷ Mary Ellen herself had been born in Taliaferro County in a little town called Locust Grove. That area of Georgia was "home". All their people had come from Ireland and settled in the area because Catholics from Maryland, who had already immigrated to Georgia in 1794, let it be known that it was a good place for them.⁸ Her father Patrick and her Uncle John had been born in County Tipperary, Ireland.⁹

As had her own husband, John Flannery.¹⁰ John had lost both his parents by the time he was sixteen. His father had been a merchant in Ireland, and they came of a good substantial family, but the famine and the attempted revolution had ruined business. They decided to join their Irish compatriots in America. After landing in Charleston, John's father had changed his mind; he tried to return home without John, encouraging him to stay and make a go of it. There were relatives and friends to help the boy out. John Flannery, Sr., died trying to get home to Ireland. Young John soon left Charleston and headed for Georgia.¹¹



He settled in Savannah¹² with Patrick Flannery, probably his cousin, who helped him find employment, first as a clerk then as a bookkeeper. Patrick had been living with John McMahon, a produce and corn merchant, and his family, but he and his young cousin found a place on State Street after the McMahons moved into the new house¹³ he had purchased for his wife Kate on Charlton Street just across the square from the Cathedral.¹⁴ (See photographs on next page.)

Mary Ellen Norton was seventeen and John Flannery was twenty-four when the McMahons moved to the Charlton Street house in 1859. Circumstances indicate that they surely had met; possibly they were already in love and wanted to marry. But John could not support a family on the salary of a bookkeeper. They would have to wait until he was established as a merchant. And the future was looking very unsettled in Georgia and the South in 1859 and 1860. All the merchants and businessmen of Savannah depended upon the products of the plantations, farms, and mines in Savannah's hinterland. Other than their own family members, most of those farmers and plantation owners used negro slaves for labor. That, in fact, was the impetus behind the formation in 1812 of the Hibernian Society by Savannah's Irish businessmen. Poor and unskilled immigrants from their own country, Ireland, were unable to find work as farm laborers, so the proto-Hibernian Society members raised money to pay for their transportation to other areas of the country where they could find employment.¹⁵ And now in 1860, the South's economic system was threatened. At the Presidential Convention in Charleston, southern Democrats had their pro-slavery plank defeated. They walked out, held a rump session, and nominated their own candidate.



But Southerners knew that it was the beginning of the end politically. Georgia's governor, Joe E. Brown, led the state out of the Union. After secession, war began in 1861.

John Flannery loved the military. He had joined the Irish Jasper Greens, one of Savannah's state militia companies, in 1857. Now the governor called them to active duty. Flannery, promoted to captain in 1862, was one of a handful of men that survived the malaria that decimated the company during the War. After the war, the survivors reunited, and Flannery was their leader. Outside of his church and family, it was his greatest love.¹⁶ The friendships he made there were already strong by dint of common faith and common ancestry; the trauma of war made them more so.

Surviving Confederate veterans like Flannery didn't find their city in physical ruins, but political institutions and economic institutions just didn't exist. Savannah was a city in a defeated nation, still under martial law. Capt. Flannery went into business with two fellow Irishmen and members of the Jasper Greens, an older man, Capt. L. J. Guilmartin, and E. W. Drummond (who was a partner, briefly).¹⁷ Guilmartin and John McMahon were both members of the Hibernian Society, and they sponsored the membership of Flannery and Drummond in 1866.¹⁸ A biographer of Flannery's put it succinctly: "They had no capital, but many friends." The firm started out as agents for a steamship line,¹⁹ but soon became commission merchants for various commodities as the state began an economic recovery. In 1877, Flannery started his own firm with John L. Johnson. (Guilmartin retired.) First, it was lumber and timber, then cotton recovered. Add to that phosphate mining, cotton mills, railroads, banks, hotels.²⁰ In summary, these Irish-American merchants got in on the ground floor of an economic upswing after the Civil War, they helped drive it, and it made them rich--some, of course, more than others.

When John Flannery and Mary Ellen Norton did marry on 30 April 1867, she was twenty-five and he was thirty-two.²¹ Capt. Flannery couldn't have been making a great deal of money yet, but his prospects were bright, and it was time to start a family.

Katie was their first-born. She was christened Mary Catherine. Her parents waited an unusual length of time to have her baptized by the Reverend Dufau in a private ceremony in the Cathedral; they were afraid for her health. Her sponsors were Pierce Condon, a relative of Mrs. McMahon's, and Mary Ann Blois. (See copy of baptismal record.)²²



CHAPTER TWO

HER EARLY YEARS

Katie was joined by a little brother not much more than a year later, 25 November 1869; he was named John McMahon Flannery, for Capt. McMahon.¹ Katie called the McMahons "Grandpa" and "Grandma".² They and their adopted daughter Mary, had left their Charlton Street home and moved in with the Flannery household on State Street. Typical of the times, it was an extended family arrangement consisting of John and Mary Ellen Flannery, two-year-old Katie, and infant, John; Joseph Flannery, John's twenty-year-old brother from Ireland, who was a clerk; Capt. McMahon, who was now retired; Mrs. McMahon, and their adopted daughter Mary; and three domestic servants: a colored boy named John Brown who was fifteen, and two white women, Kate O'Connor and Julia White.³

Another son was born to John and Mary Ellen the last day of the following year, 31 December 1870. They named him Francis Xavier.⁴ The little family was growing. This happy state of affairs didn't last more than a few months. Their despair shows in the notice they gave to the newspaper. Savannah Morning News, 11 May 1871, "Funeral Invitations": "Obituary of John McMahon, aged 1 year and 5 months and 15 days, son of John and Mary E. Flannery. His funeral will take place from Cathedral of St. John the Baptist at 10 o'clock this Thursday morning." He had died of bronchitis, according to Dr. Arnold, the attending physician.⁵

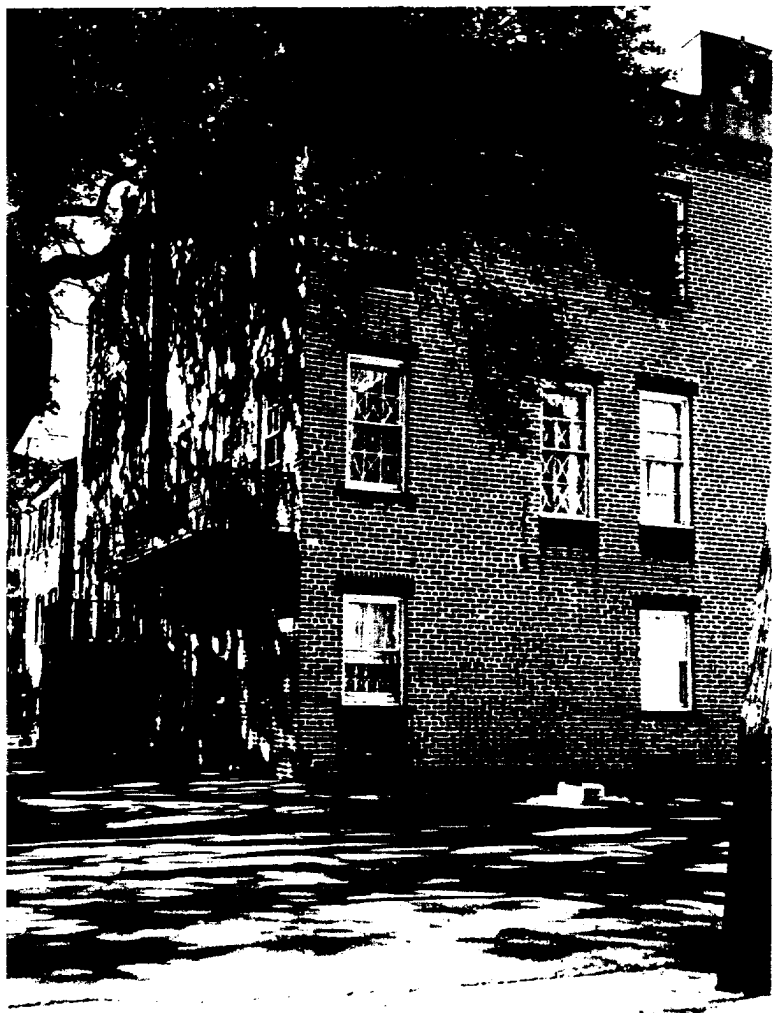
They did not give up, although they waited awhile. Mary Ellen got pregnant again the following year, and another son was born on 7 November 1872. He must have seemed a gift from God, a replacement for the son they had lost, for they named him John McMahon also.⁶

John Flannery was doing very well in business by now. The household may have been somewhat cramped. Whatever the reason, the McMahons moved to a residence of their own again, although not back to Charlton Street. And the Flannerys moved to 106 Jones Street at the corner of Drayton.⁷ (See photograph on next page.) An newspaper article on residential development in the city reported that "Capt. John Flannery has improved the exterior appearance of his residence by the erection of a very handsome two-story verandah." (Savannah Morning News, 26 June 1873)

Death came again to the household in 1873. Their son, Frances Xavier, died of croup on 11 October.⁸ Mary Ellen's aunt, Mrs. Hugh Treanor of Milledgeville, lost her son John about the same time, and the Flannery, Condon, and McMahon Families had the funeral for him as well.⁹ It was times like these that a closeknit and large family could be especially helpful and comforting. They were in need of comforting again soon. Henry Norton Flannery was born 18 June 1874; he didn't live to be a year old, dying of double pneumonia on 2 May 1875.¹⁰ "Friends and acquaintances of Capt. and Mrs. John Flannery, of Capt. John McMahon and family, and of Mr. and Mrs. P. Condon and family, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of Henry Norton, son of the former, from their residence at the corner of Jones and Drayton Streets, this afternoon at half past four o'clock." (Savannah Morning News, 3 May 1873)

Katie was not quite seven years old by this time and had lost three little brothers to childhood illnesses that children rarely die from anymore. When we condemn the Victorians for being excessively morbid and sentimental, perhaps we should recall the realities they had to live with. Death was frequent and took the little ones most often.

Shortly after this, the McMahons moved back into the house at #75 Charlton Street.¹¹ Katie probably visited "Grandma" and "Grandpa" there and spent the night occasionally, as children will visit close relatives.



In 1878 Katie's aunt Alice from Ireland came to live with them in the house on Jones Street. Now there was Katie, her parents, her seven-year-old brother John McMahon, her uncle Joseph, twenty-seven, and her twenty-six year old aunt Alice¹², for whom Mary Ellen may have been matchmaking. Which is probably the reason the Flannerys agreed she ought to come to America. They surely introduced her to Mary Ellen's cousin* James Hines (younger generation James Hines than he who married her mother) of Washington, Georgia, and the two were married in 1880.¹³ Their children would be Katie's double first cousins. Meanwhile, Aunt Alice could be helpful to her sister-in-law, for Mrs. Flannery was pregnant again with what was to be her last child, a little girl they named Mary Victor.¹⁴ She only lived for two days. The announcement in the newspaper was terse: "In this city, on the 14 instant, Mary Victor, infant daughter of John and Mary E. Flannery." (Savannah Morning News, 16 April 1880, "Funeral Announcements")

* NOTE: He was her half-brother, according to Mrs. Groves.

Kate Flannery + brother Mac (John McMahon)



SAVANNAH, GA

Kate Flannery Semmes in parlor
at 211 E. Charlton 1940's-1950's

(13)



Kate F. Semmes in dining room @ 211 E. Charlton portrait of Capt. McMahon behind her



CHAPTER THREE

HER SCHOOL YEARS

Katie Flannery was thirteen and a student at St. Vincent's Academy in Savannah.¹ About 1881 her family moved again, this time to a three-story house with a basement on Hull Street², next door to the Presbyterian Reading Room and across the street from Chippewa Square. (The house is gone now, but it must have stood where a memorial wall stands now as shown in the photograph on the next page.)

Capt. McMahon died in 1881. He had been an important man in Savannah, helping to found the Southern Bank,³ and serving as president of the Hibernian Society since 1873.⁴ (See copy of his portrait from Story of a Century by Arthur O'Hara on following page.) He died without a will but evidently had made his wishes regarding his estate known to his family. John Flannery served as one of the estate administrators. The Catholic Church was given a very handsome contribution of \$11,000; his wife Kate and his adopted daughter Mary, who was now married to Francis X. Douglass, each received approximately equal shares of the remainder of the estate; also, they sent \$5000 to his only sister Bridget Grant of Iowa, as well as forgiving a \$2500 loan made to her earlier.⁵ Mary Douglass took as part of her inheritance the house at #77 Charlton Street to live in. Capt. McMahon had bought it recently.⁶ (See copy of the estate papers of Capt. McMahon in the Appendix.) Kate McMahon, his widow, continued to live at 75 Charlton Street for the next few years, until her death.

Katie graduated from the Academy of St. Vincent de Paul on 27 June 1882. "The twenty-seventh annual commencement exercises took place at the Savannah Theatre last evening," reported the Savannah Morning News. "There





JOHN McMAHON,
THE SIXTH PRESIDENT

were honor awards for 'Punctuality', 'Instrumental Music', 'Excellence of Deportment', 'Christian Doctrine', and 'Mathematics'. Academic honors were awarded to the highest achiever, a Miss Winifred McGlaine, who received a laurel wreath, a gold medal and a diploma." Katie was one of sixteen girls who were awarded a "crown of honor for ladylike deportment". (Savannah Morning News, 28 June 1882: 4/3)

She entered St. Joseph's Academy in Washington, Georgia. St. Joseph's was quite new. The Sisters of St. Joseph of LePuy, France, brought over by French-born Bishop Verot of the Savannah Diocese, opened an academy for girls at Washington as one of several institutions the order started in the diocese after the Civil War to fill various needs, mostly for children, such as schools and orphanages. The Flannery family was to have a long and fruitful association with the Sisters of St. Joseph over the years.⁷ Katie was among several Savannah girls who graduated from the Academy in 1886. (Savannah Morning News, 1 July 1886: 2/2)

She was a young lady of eighteen now, and we find several social items appearing in the newspapers of the day: "The Savannah Floral and Art Association held their first exhibit at the Catholic Library Hall. In art work Miss Kate Flannery exhibited a pretty piece in dried grasses, a beautiful hand-painted bonnet, the design being a cluster of morning glories and a pretty panel." (Savannah Morning News, 17 November 1886) And at the Christmas season: "At the Savannah Cadets' bazaar, Miss Kate Flannery won the silver card receiver." (Savannah Morning News, 13 December 1886)

Katie's mother, Mary Ellen, her family responsibilities greatly lightened, was able to express her delight and interest in the needlework skills she had developed at home--she was a leader in the Savannah Floral and Art Association.

She served on the Award Committee for "Fancy and Needle Work" for the 1887 Savannah Flower and Art Show. Another time she served on a committee on needlework for the Association. And in 1888, she was elected to the Executive Committee of the Savannah Floral and Art Association.⁸

The year after her graduation from St. Joseph's Academy, Katie's great-aunt Kate died. She left a detailed will and estate papers.⁹ (See appendix.) Mrs. McMahon's adopted daughter and her husband petitioned the court to set the will aside on the grounds that she, Mary Douglass, was the heir. The will didn't even mention her, let alone leave her anything. If that sounds unjust, one should remember that when Capt. McMahon died, his wife Kate agreed to "take a child's portion" and share the estate with her adopted daughter, therefore Kate McMahon probably felt that Mary Douglass had already been well taken care of.

The Douglass' petition was dismissed. Kate Harty McMahon left approximately half her estate of \$48,000± to her Harty relatives in Milledgeville and Washington; the rest she left to her niece Mary Ellen Flannery, her grandnephew John McMahon Flannery, and to her grandniece Katie, who inherited her half-interest in #75 Charlton Street (known as 211 E. Charlton Street since the house renumbering in 1897). The estate papers contain a list of all of Kate McMahon's personal property, including the furnishings of 75 Charlton Street. It gives us a detailed picture of the interior of an upper middle class home in Savannah in the late 1800s. (See list entitled "Personal Property" among the papers in the appendix.)

John McMahon had bought the house at 75 Charlton Street in 1855 and put half-interest of it in trust for his wife Kate; the other half he gave to his sister Bridget Grant.¹⁰ The year after Kate died in 1887, Capt. Flannery and Mr. McGowan, as executors of her estate, bought Mrs. Grant's half-interest for \$4000 and conveyed it to Katie Flannery, making her the sole owner from 1888 on.¹¹

The Flannerys appeared in the social news in 1889:

15 July 1889: "Mrs. John Flannery and her daughter, Miss Katie Flannery, went to Atlant last night for a visit of a week or two..."

25 July 1889: "Capt. Flannery and family are in Washington, Georgia."

15 August 1889: "Capt. Flannery and family leave today for the north on an extended trip..."

9 December 1889: "Miss Katie Flannery, who has been in the north and at Atlanta several months, has returned." ¹²

A social item appeared in the Savannah Morning News in early 1891 mentioning Katie: "The Washington Gazette says that Miss McDonough is visiting at Mr. James Hines' with her friend Miss Flannery. Miss McDonough is a daughter of Mr. McDonough who has just been elected mayor of Savannah." Hines, of course, was a relative of Katie's. The article goes on to say that the two young ladies were there to see a young friend or relative named Susie _____ "take the veil" (become a nun).¹³

Could Katie have been seeing her future husband, Raphael Semmes, in Washington and Atlanta? It seems quite possible. Semmes lived in Atlanta, but he also had connections in Wilkes County; his Catholic ancestors were among those pioneers from Maryland, as were Mary Ellen Flannery's. It doesn't seem farfetched to envision Katie's mother encouraging the alliance with Raphael Semmes. He came from an old American Catholic family that was prominent in the South: he was named for a cousin, Confederate Admiral Raphael Thomas Semmes of Alabama.

Young Semmes' father, a surgeon, practiced medicine in Mississippi. Not an astute businessman, he had lost all his money as a stockholder in a cotton factory, causing Raphael, his son, to cut his education short and take a job in a hardware store owned by a cousin. He left Canton,

Mississippi, looking for better opportunities and decided on Atlanta, where he continued in the hardware business, literally starting in the cellar and working his way up.¹⁴ He was very much like Katie's father--they were both devout Catholics and selfmade men. They had their differences, though--Semmes was more in business by necessity than choice, and his family doesn't seem to have been Irish. He was never part of that milieu in Savannah, at least according to the evidence. By the time that Katie and Raphael were becoming engaged, Capt. Flannery was president of the Southern Bank, incorporator and director of numerous enterprises, as well as a leader in religious, social, civic and community affairs of Savannah.¹⁵ One of the important stories of 1891 in the Savannah Morning News concerns the record million bales of cotton received in the port of Savannah. Katie's father, Capt. Flannery, is quoted as an expert on the cotton business, saying that "he'd been looking for receipts to reach one million for the last three years."¹⁶ His son, John McMahon Flannery, was featured among the first passengers to ride the new South Bound railroad, a business venture of his father's.¹⁷



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CHAPTER FOUR
HER MARRIAGE;
HER INHERITANCE

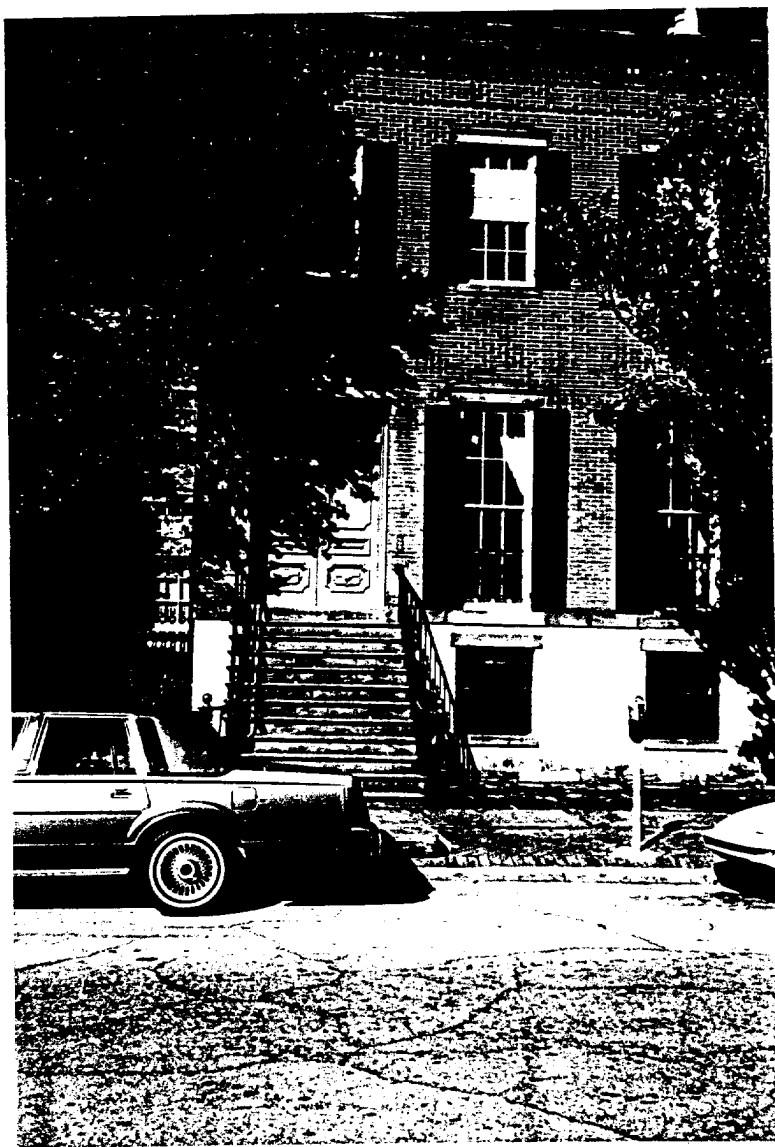
Katie Flannery chose her parents' wedding anniversary date on which to get married, 30 April 1891. Bishop T. A. Becker performed the ceremony in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Assisting were the Rev. Dr. A. J. Semmes, a Savannah priest and the Reverends Jacob O'Brien and M. L. Reilly.¹ (See copy of Bishop's diary page on next page.)

The newly wed couple spent the next several years in Atlanta. Semmes continued to work at Beck and Gregg Hardware, rising to manager of the sales department. They first rented an apartment at the Normandie on Peachtree Street then moved to 182 Gordon Street.²

They moved back to Savannah in 1896 to live with the Flannerys, having since moved to 128 Taylor Street at the corner of Bull Street and Taylor on Monterey Square. Semmes took a position with Chas. A. Conklin & Co., a wholesale house furnishings and goods concern.³

Fatal maladies plagued the Flannery clan for the next few years, thus it seems reasonable to assume that Katie and Raphael returned to Savannah to help her family. Her mother Mary Ellen contracted breast cancer about 1893.⁴ She died in 1899, too physically debilitated to sign her will.⁵ Katie's bachelor uncle Joseph died in 1897, cause unknown to us;⁶ and finally, her brother John McMahon developed pulmonary tuberculosis the same time, 1897, and died on 29 December 1900. His will was made on Christmas Day, 1900, and his signature was very shaky. He made his sister Katie his heir and executrix of his estate. He was twenty-seven years old.⁷

John Flannery was in his mid-sixties when his wife and son died. According to his death certificate, he began to develop heart disease about that age.⁸ The



U. S. Census of 1900 shows the household consisting of him, his son, Katie and Raphael, and three servants.⁹

In 1903 Capt. Flannery made out his will, leaving everything to Katie.¹⁰ (See copy of will and estate papers in Appendix.) The same year, he established the Flannery Trust Fund, endowing it with \$50,000. The most significant beneficiary of the trust fund was to be St. Joseph's Hospital, founded by the Sisters of Mercy, a religious order of Charleston, South Carolina, and of Ireland, and brought to Savannah by an Irish priest, Father O'Neill, pastor of the City.¹¹

In response to his endowment, Pope Pius X conferred a medal upon him, the same medal that his daughter Katie was to receive thirty-three years later, the "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifici", literally "For Church and Pope".¹²

In 1906, Flannery disposed of his business, John Flannery and Co. Southern Bank, of which he was the president, merged with Citizens Bank to form Citizens and Southern Bank. Flannery became first vice-president.¹³

John Flannery died 9 May 1910. The Bishop of Savannah, the Right Reverend Keiley, delivered the eulogy at his funeral mass at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, calling him "a just and honest man...[who] never gained success at sacrifice of principles...a consistent Catholic...[of] deep, earnest and childlike faith...God rest the soul of this gallant Catholic gentleman."¹⁴

A copy of the inventory of Capt. Flannery's estate is included in the Appendix. His holdings were remarkable. Not only were they large, but they were exclusively in this region. This man believed in the economic future of the Southeastern coastal region. He left \$120,000 in real property in Savannah; hundred of acres of land elsewhere in Georgia and in Hillsborough County, Florida (Tampa); more than \$225,000 in state, municipal

and railroad bonds; over \$70,000 in bank shares; about \$130,000 worth of railroad stocks; \$180,000 more or less in factory stocks, primarily in the Bibb Manufacturing Co., \$80,000 to \$90,000 worth of miscellaneous stocks; \$55,000 cash in the bank and \$20,000 worth of Certificates of Deposit in the Citizens and Southern Bank; about \$35,000 worth of notes due him, secured by stock, life insurance or real estate, for the most part; and \$1000 worth of life insurance! In all the estate was appraised for \$952,761.53, including \$6000 worth of personal property in his home at 4 West Taylor Street-- "silverware, library, household and kitchen furniture, and Household effects of all kinds..."¹⁵

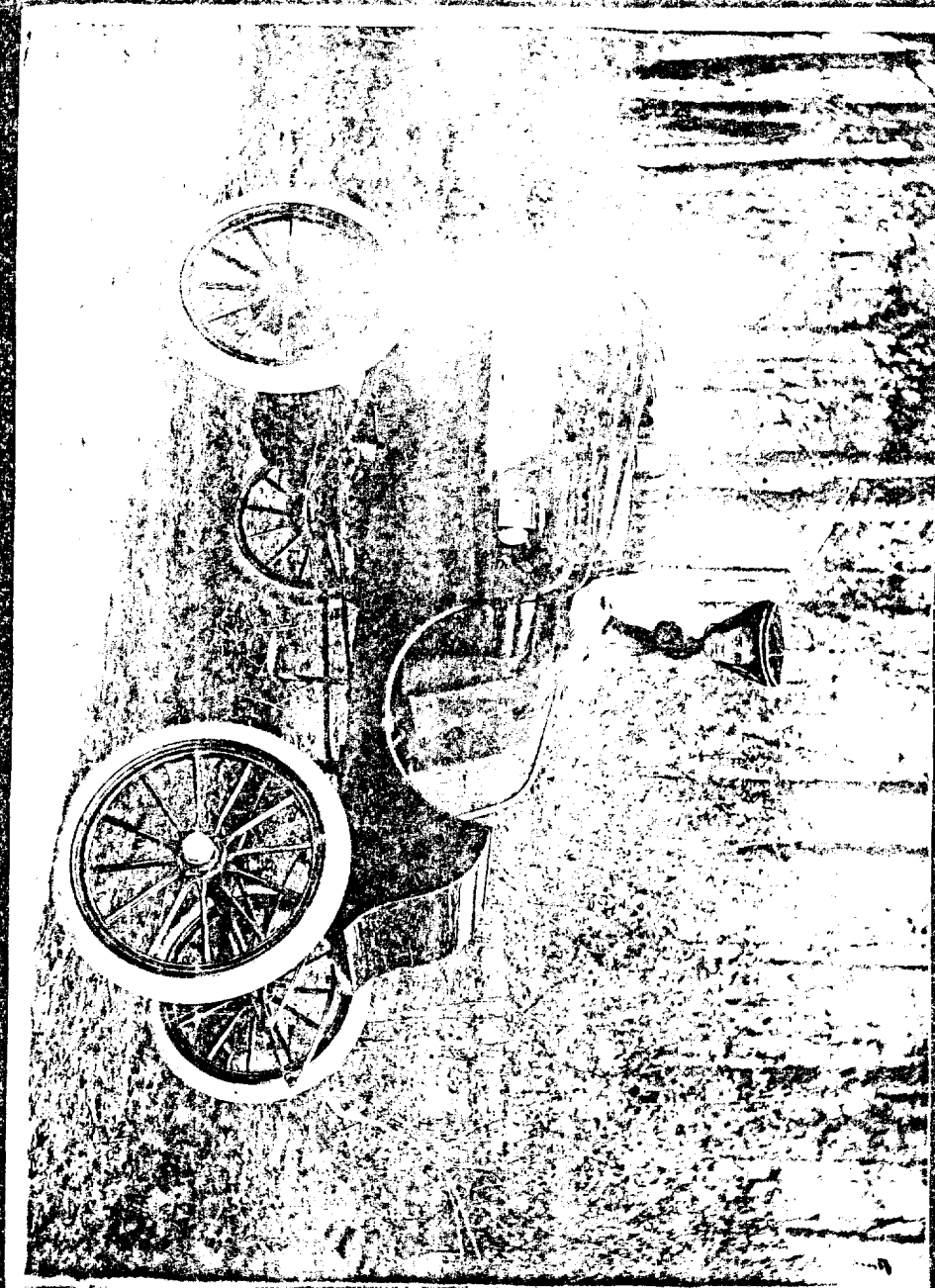
Shortly after Katie and her husband returned to Savannah, he started his own business. It was a wholesale hardware concern, R. T. Semmes and Co., and it prospered, steadily expanding and remaining in business for many, many years.¹⁶

Raphael Semmes died in 1916 of chronic kidney disease.¹⁷ He was buried from the Cathedral and placed in the Flannery lot at Catholic Cemetery.¹⁸ The couple never had any children. They had had a good life together, enjoying sports like golf and traveling in the summer to Nova Scotia, Canada, and to Vermont, according to a relative, Mrs. Katherine Doyle Groves of Savannah.

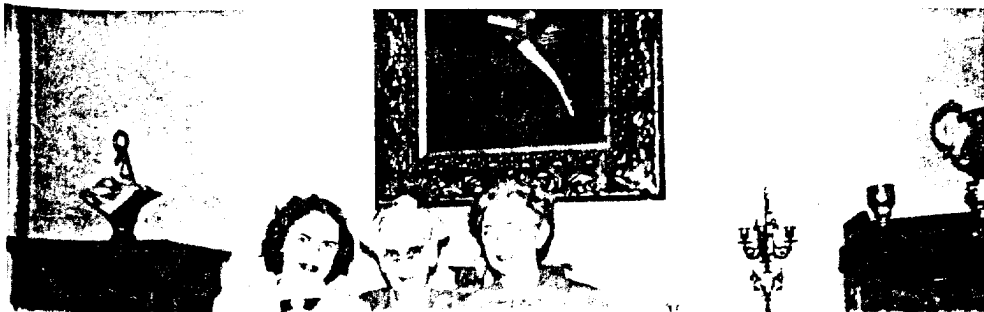
As Mr. Semmes stated in his will, his wife Katie's estate was very much larger than his own; therefore, although he left a large portion of the estate to her as his rightful heir, he also requested that she use the money, about \$100,000, to set up a trust fund for an industrial school for the "Roman Catholic Orphan Boys of the Diocese of Savannah". According to Mrs. Groves and to an entry in the Grantee Index Book of Chatham County Superior Court, such a trust fund was set up and the St. Thomas School for Boys was opened. It was for boys who were too

old for the orphanage at Washington, Georgia. As the need for orphanages lessened, the money was used for other things.¹⁹ Semmes left numerous bequests to his nieces and nephews, to Catholic charities, to employees of his company and to young men he was helping to put through college. (A copy of his will is in the Appendix.) His will is interesting for what it reveals about him. He was a cautious businessman who had known poverty himself because of the vagaries of manufacturing ventures, so he left copious warnings about investing in such enterprises. His own investments were in railroad stocks, bank shares and municipal bonds as well as stock in his own company. Having no children of his own, he wished to help as many young people as he could to get an education, surely remembering that his own had been cut short. He left all his genealogical books and materials to the Maryland Historical Society and the Georgia Historical Society.²⁰

A few years after his death, his widow Katie had a book compiled and published from his genealogical notes and records entitled Semmes and Related Families, a "magnus opus" and a monument to her husband who was so very proud of his heritage. The inscription of the copy presented to the Georgia Historical Society is in her hand.



Kate Flannery Sommes in her first electric automobile
About 1904-1905



[Best copy available]

Kate Flannery Semmes

taken in the home of Alice + James Hynes

Washington GA Oct. 1913

(29)



Kate Flannery Semmes

taken in the home of Alice + James Hynes

Washington, GA Oct 1913

(30)



CHAPTER FIVE

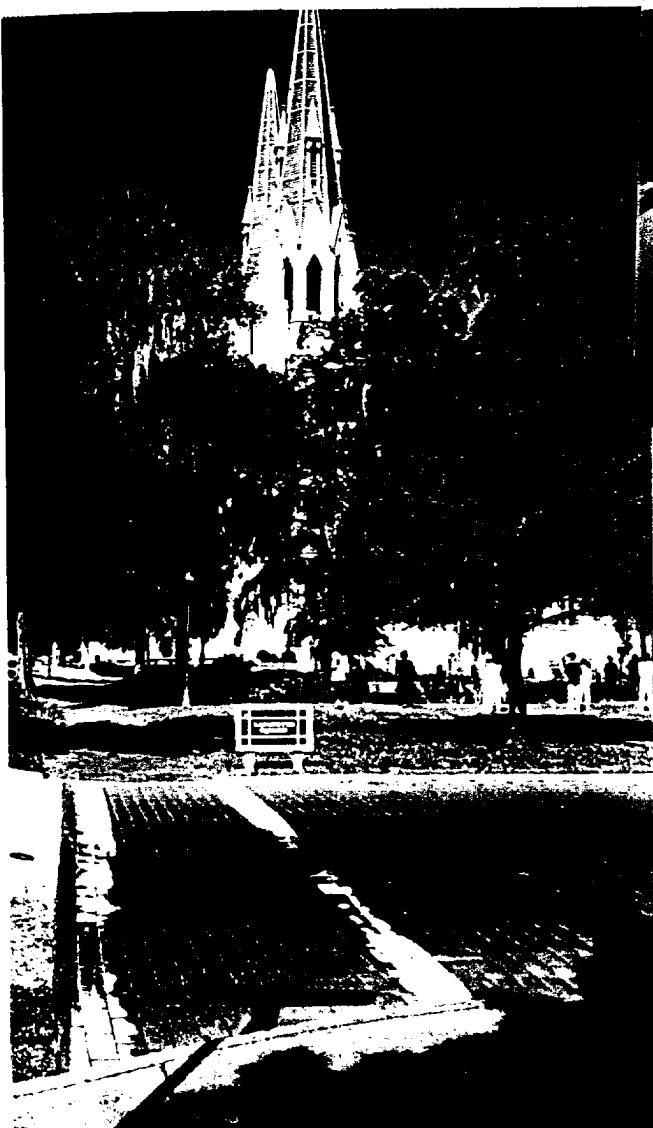
HER YEARS AS A WIDOW: HER PAPAL MEDAL: HER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE AUTHOR FLANNERY O'CONNOR

When Kate Flannery Semmes became a widow, she was forty-eight years old and presumably in good health. Mrs. Groves, a cousin, remembers her as being rather athletic, enjoying a game of golf, driving one of the first automobiles in Savannah, and spending her summers in New England and later in North Carolina, as she got older. She and her cousin, Annie Treanor, who had been living with her and Raphael¹, continued to reside at 4 West Taylor Street until the late 1920s, when something caused them to move back into her house on Charlton Street.

In 1923, Katie Semmes made it possible for Edward F. O'Connor, Jr. to buy the property known 207 and 209 E. Charlton Street (two-thirds of Lot 40, Lafayette Ward). She did this by loaning him half the money, securing the debt with the deed to the middle one-third of the property, that is, 207 E. Charlton Street, and by buying the other part of the property which was adjacent to her own house at 211 E. Charlton.² Why would Katie want to enable O'Connor to buy this house? It appears that she did it as a favor to her cousin, Regina Cline, related to her distantly as a cousin and more closely to Annie Treanor as aunt, through the Harty family.³ They must have been fond of Regina and wanted her to live near them.

In 1924, Regina and Edward O'Connor were married, and the following year they had a daughter whom they named Mary Flannery O'Connor, after Cousin Katie's mother and father.⁴

Between 1927 and 1929 Katie Semmes had various alterations done to her property and moved into the house at 211 E. Charlton in late 1929. The last time she had lived there was in 1989-1990 just before her marriage.⁵



Mary O'Connor spent the first thirteen years of life in close contact with her "much-adored" Cousin Katie and Aunt Annie. (See following page, illustration from Flannery O'Connor's Georgia by Barbara McKenzie.) Robert Coles, a biographer of the author, says in his book, Flannery O'Connor's South:

I recommend, too, a trip to Savannah. The sight of Flannery O'Connor's particular, early childhood, the 'southern scene' -- a home on one of that city's marvelous squares, under the shadow of its imposing Catholic cathedral is about all (one prays) any of this century's ambitious 'psychohistorians' would need to understand the early 'influences' upon her mind, her soul.⁶

On a less serious note, but along the same lines, it's amusing to speculate that her well-known love of fowl, and even possibly her change of name from "Mary O'Connor" to "Flannery O'Connor" may have had their genesis in a charming anecdote related in Stanley Hyman's biography of her, Flannery O'Connor:

Mary Flannery grew up as rather a solitary child until she attended parochial school. She loved pet fowl all her life. When she was five, an aunt gave her, as a curiosity, a bantam chicken that walked backwards, and it was this that led to her first national celebrity. The Pathe' News people filmed little Mary O'Connor with her trained chicken, and showed the film around the country. (page 5)

Just the kind of thing a budding serious young author wouldn't want connected with her work! Mrs. Groves says that Katie Semmes loved birds. Perhaps her young cousin developed this hobby from her! Anecdotes about chickens were a staple item in the newspapers of the day, according to the index of the New York Times.

In 1936, Kate Flannery Semmes was honored as her father had been: she received a medal from the Pope for all her many benefactions to the Church..." and because of the manner in which she has exemplified Catholic

Flannery, age three. Flannery liked to draw as a very young child, treasuring gifts of crayons and paper more than candy and sweets.



completed and with a contract for its publication from Harcourt, Brace and Company. While she was hospitalized and later at home, she revised the manuscript, following changes offered by Robert Giroux, her editor at Harcourt, and suggestions by Caroline Gordon, a writer the younger author admired. The publication in 1952 of *Wise Blood* did not go unnoticed in Milledgeville, although it seems the book itself went largely unread by the general populace.

Flannery, age five, and her great aunt Annie Treanor. Miss Treanor lived with Flannery's much-adored "Cousin Katie" (Mrs. Raphael T. Semmes) next door to the O'Connors in Savannah.



Neither Regina nor Flannery O'Connor had experienced farm life on a daily basis until 1951 when they moved to Andalusia, which was then a working dairy farm. But mother and daughter prospered in their new setting, with Mrs. O'Connor running the farm with great verve and dedication, and Flannery O'Connor continuing to write, a daily activity interrupted only by periods of illness or visits to colleges and universities where she lectured on the craft of writing. In 1955

Flannery, age seven, on the occasion of her First Communion. Flannery favored her father in appearance and her resemblance in this portrait to Edward O'Connor is striking.



principles in her daily life...Mrs. Semmes has carried on the traditions of the Flannery and Semmes families in her assistance to Catholic institutions and Catholic movements, but all her benefactions have been rendered privately and unostentatiously." The article in The Bulletin of the Catholic Laymen's Association specifically highlights her gift to the Sisters of S. Joseph in Augusta, where she presented the motherhouse and its grounds "Chateau LeVert", after they lost their school. She also presented an adjoining building called Flannery Hall.⁷ (See copy of article in Appendix.)

Not long after Katie received her medal in 1936, the family learned that Edward O'Connor was fatally ill with disseminated lupus, a disease of the joints. The O'Connors had to leave Savannah and move to Mrs. O'Connor's home in Milledgeville.⁸ And it was probably in and around the small town of Milledgeville in rural Georgia that Flannery O'Connor came into contact with the eccentric characters that peopled her stories, for she did not write about her own people, her own class.⁹ As one biographer said:

A Temple of the Holy Ghost is a portrait of the artist as a sardonic twelve-year-old girl, a Roman Catholic among rustics who identify Latin hymns as 'Jew-singing'.¹⁰

Flannery O'Connor herself said about her stories:

I am concerned with the religious individual, the backwoods prophet...If you're a Catholic and have this intensity of belief, you join a convent. But Protestant Fundamentalists have no convent to join. They go around getting into trouble and express themselves in all kinds of dramatic action which is obvious enough for me to catch.¹¹

She would not have been at all surprised by those "televangelists" Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker!

About the same time the O'Connors moved to Milledgeville, Mrs. M. C. Hynes and Mrs. Fitzpatrick Fortson moved in with Katie, who was sixty-eight or so.¹² Edward O'Connor died in 1941.¹³ Katie obtained title to the house at 207 E. Charlton Street.¹⁴

Katie Semmes wrote her will in 1946 when she was about seventy-eight years old. (See copy of the will in the Appendix.) She had numerous heirs, mostly cousins, and left many bequests, among them the house at 207 E. Charlton Street in trust for her young cousin Mary Flannery O'Connor. Her home at 211 E. Charlton Street she left to her double first cousin Marguerite Hynes Doyle.¹⁵

One of the last and most touching references to Katie Semmes is to be found in a book, The Correspondence of Flannery O'Connor and the Brainard Cheneys, edited by C. R. Stephens. Cheney, an author, and his wife were newly-converted Catholics. They became friends with Flannery after he wrote to her expressing appreciation for one of her stories, according to Stephens' book. The Cheneys began to visit Flannery and her mother at "Andalusia Farm" near Milledgeville on their way from Tennessee where they lived to St. Simons Island, Georgia, where they had bought a vacation cottage. From the book:

In November 1957, she writes: "The latest item with us is that my wealthy 88 year old cousin in Savannah wants to give my mother and me a pilgrimage to Rome this spring. The Monsignor from the Savannah diocese is conducting it and my cousin is determined we shall go. My mother is all for it. I am not so sure I can stand it -- 17 days of Holy Exhaustion -- but I suppose this is the only way I'll ever get there."

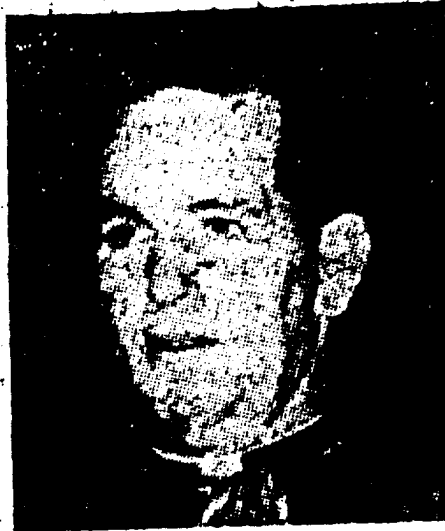
(See Diary of Eleanor and Marie Bennet, 1958 Savannah Lourdes Centennial Pilgrimage, 1. Also, advertisement in The Bulletin of the Catholic Laymen's Association on next page.)¹⁶

The young author had been diagnosed as having the same disease that had killed her father. Cortisone treatments were helping to keep it under control, but photographs show her deterioration.¹⁷

Again, in March 1958, she writes: "The doctor said I couldn't go on the pilgrimage--too much--7 places in 17 days. So we plan to go spend a week with the Fitzgeralds in Levanto and then go to Lourdes and Rome with the group."

Planning for the Ninth Northwest Regional Congress of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine are Father Paul Stecher, at left, Diocesan Director, C.C.D., Diocese of Yakima, Washington, and Father Bertrand J. Guherich, Ph.D., Field Representative, National Center of the C.C.D., Washington, D. C. To be represented in the meeting scheduled for September, are nine dioceses in the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Territory of Alaska. (NC Photos)

SAVANNAH DIOCESAN LOURDES CENTENNIAL PILGRIMAGE



Sponsored by Most Rev. Thomas J. McDonough
Auxiliary Bishop of Savannah

Under the Spiritual Direction of Monsignor McNamara and Father Bourke, members will depart April 22, 1958 from New York via Trans World Airlines to visit Lourdes during The Year of Jubilee—proclaimed by the Holy Father to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady's appearances to St. Bernadette.

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2-22-58 The Bulletin

memory by FORTUNE'S illustrated article on THE VATICAN. There was something about these six foot, ten angels, that dwarfed time and gave one the feeling of the lightness of eternity. After a comparatively long walk, which lengthened out, too, by reason of the disconcertingly captivating apparitions of St. Peter's, we found our way down stairs to the Altar of the Tomb of the Chief of the Apostles. Here over a circuitous route, studded by small chapels

us assurance and to assist us in making our visit more memorable was our Archbishop. Surprisingly, the vastness of St. Peter's and with its approaches was not overwhelming. It was not until a second and a third visit that we began to sense its tremendous size. Bramanti, and more his successor, the imitable Michael Angelo, have created a grand illusion in this, the greatest of all Christian churches. So symmetrical and so harmonious are its astronomical dimensions that beauty rather than vastness is one's first impression. And this impression holds not only as one stands looking down the main aisle of the Basilica, or looking at the exquisitely designed dome, or even as one stands on the steps of the four hundred foot depth portico, but takes on added beauty as one moves along the Via Convilazione, the broad avenue leading to St. Peter's Shrine. The whole vista from the Via Conciliazione, with the great dome of St. Peter's, golden in the May sunlight, was so arrestingly beautiful that one comes almost suddenly on the Plaza or Square fronting St. Peter's. Later Father Daly and I were to visit San Marco Square in Venice, and, having seen both, was to see the two most beautiful squares in the world. The semi-circular colonnade of the master craftsman, Bernini, surrounding St. Peter's Square was like a pair of welcoming arms, embracing all mankind alike.

As we stood on that lovely square that Sunday morning in May we witnessed in the people pausing there — white and

As we stood on that lovely square that Sunday morning in May we witnessed in the people pausing there — white and

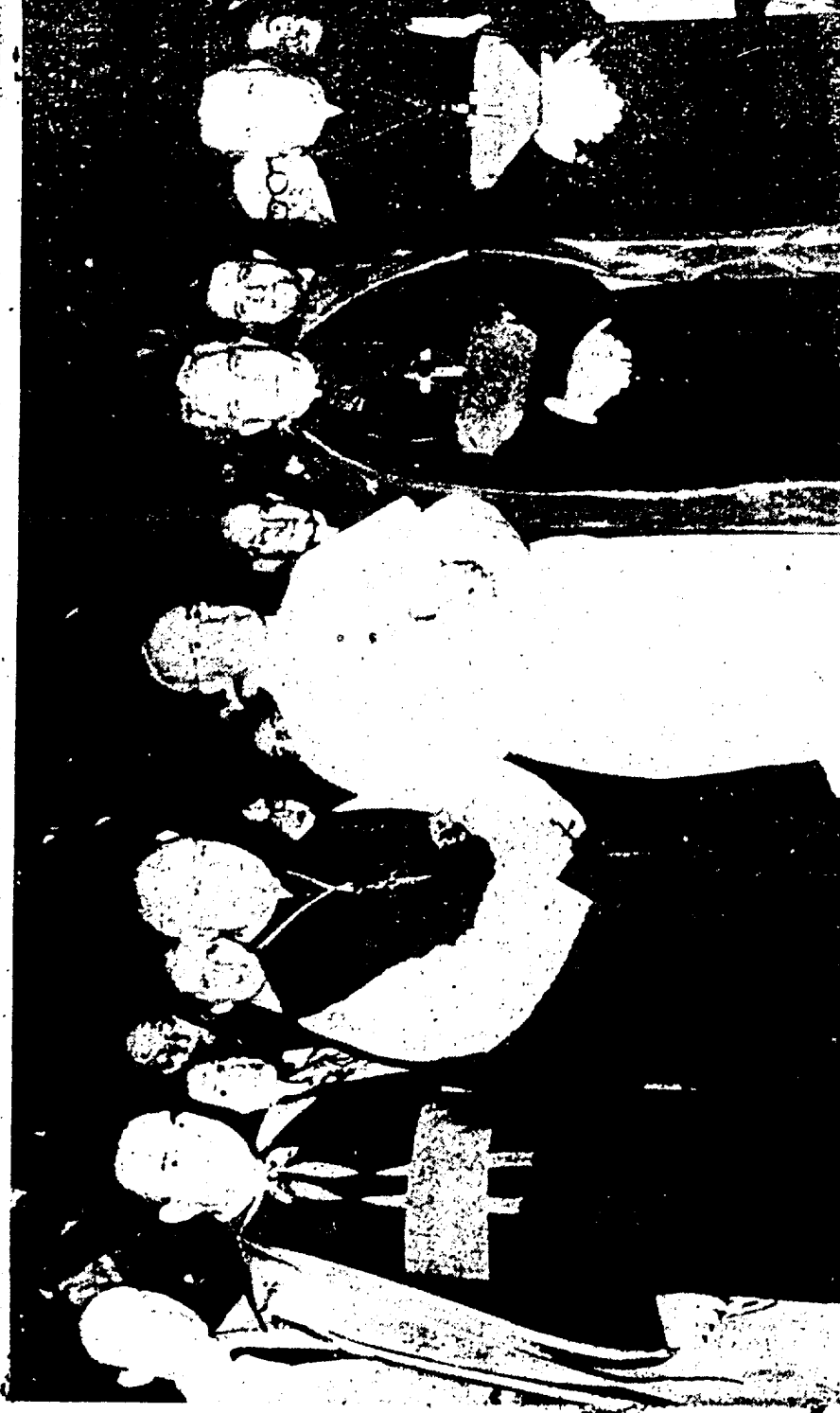
GROUND-BREAKING

— Rain failed to halt groundbreaking ceremonies for Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Columbus. Father William Dowling, pastor of the church, removes the first shovel full of dirt while Father Herman Deimet, pastor of the Church of the Holy Family, looks on from beneath an umbrella held by Sgt. L. J. Kliber, member of the new church. Father Deimet blessed the ground at the ceremonies, attended by a small group of church members and sisters from Holy Trinity School and Mother Mary Mission.—Enquirer photo by Ben W. Johnson.

reminiscent of the catacombs of the early centuries of Christianity, we soon found ourselves outside the Chapel of the Tomb. Beyond this Chapel was another Chapel, dedicated to Our Lady; its walk laden with mosaics of the second century, spelling out

After our Mass we lingered longingly but only briefly, because we were to return to the Basilica in the afternoon for what turned out to be the most memorable event ever experienced. But lingering, even though briefly, our eyes were fascinated and our memories en-

(Continued on Page Eight)



HOLY FATHER RECEIVES ARCHBISHOP O'HARA AND SAVANNAH PILGRIMS

PRESIDENT GARCIA OF PHILIPPINES LAUDS NATION'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ONE MAN'S MOTHER

MCNAMARA T J

from RG6S2.1

(40)

ARCHIVES
DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH

DIARY OF
ELEANOR AND MARIE BENNETT
1958
SAVANNAH DIOCESAN
LOURDES CENTENNIAL PILGRIMAGE

DIARY OF

ELEANOR AND MARIE BENNETT

1958

SAVANNAH DIOCESAN
LOURDES CENTENNIAL PILGRIMAGE

April 21st, 1958, will always remain an ever memorable day in our lives, for on that day a dream of a lifetime was realized, when together with Father Bourke, Gene and Jack Long, we boarded a plane leaving Bush Field at 9:20 A. M. for New York. There we were to meet at the Manger-Vanderbilt Hotel, the other members of our Pilgrimage. There were sixteen in all, a congenial, jolly good party.

They were:

Msgr. T. James McNamara,
Mr. John J. Brennan,
Mr. John J. Clancy,
Mrs. Edward S. Stoddard,
Miss Margaret von Kamp,
of Savannah -

Rev. Daniel J. Bourke,
Mr. Eugene M. Long, Jr.,
Mr. John B. Long,
Miss Eleanor Bennett,
Miss Marie Bennett,
of Augusta -

Rev. George Daly,
of Atlanta -

Rev. Herman T. Deimel,
of Columbus -

Miss Nell Green,
of Albany -

Miss Elizabeth O'Brien,
of Elizabeth, N. J.

Mrs. Edward F. O'Connor,
Miss Flannery O'Connor,
of Milledgeville -

ARCHIVES
DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH

old

After visiting and looking over/familiar sites in New York, bringing back fond recollections of previous visits there, we left the Manger-Vanderbilt the following evening (April 22nd) for Idlewild Airport, where we embarked aboard the TWA. Constellation at 8:00 P. M.

too far away. We strolled some distance through the Park seeing a pretty lake known as "Serpentine" and finally reached the corner where a man representing a Catholic Guild was being interrogated by various people on matters relating to the Catholic Church. We listened for a while and learned later he was a married man and did represent the Church. Close by at the same corner was a representative of another denomination, speaking and singing hymns. We did not quite understand the origin of the name "Gossips Corner", but thought it was a very nice way for people to spend a Sunday Evening.

Sunday Morning, April 28th, at 8:30 we left Park Lane Hotel for London Airport, enroute to Paris.

[Best copy available]

ANCE:

Monday, April 28th, we arrived at La Bourget Airport around eleven in the morning and motored to the Ambassador Hotel in Paris where reservations had been made for us. Here we were greeted by two of our pilgrims, Mrs. O'Connor and her daughter Flannery, who left us at Shannon for a trip to Genoa to visit friends. We were glad to see them and meet their friends. Mr. Fitzgerald of Genoa, who came to Paris with them. After having lunch we went sightseeing, visiting the great Cathedral

ARCHIVES
DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH

A letter dated 21 November 1958: "...Our cousin is dying in Savannah--the one who gave us the trip to Lourdes--and we may have to go down there at any time...She is ninety so there is not much chance of her getting better..." Sunday night, 23 November 1958, "Our cousin died tonight and the funeral is Monday so we will be here waiting for Friday." The Cheneys were expected for a visit. Another letter dated 2 December 1958: "...the doctor is letting me walk around the house a little without my crutches. He says the bone is beginning to recalcify. Last year they told me this wouldn't happen. My mother talked to the Archbishop at Cousin Katie's funeral and told him about this and he said, "Ah, seeing the Pope did her some good." ¹⁸

Flannery O'Connor died in 1964. She never returned to her childhood home in Savannah, to the house that her Cousin Katie left her. ¹⁹

Kate Flannery Semmes died at her home on 22 November 1958. The death certificate lists the cause of death as pneumonia and myocardial failure, caused by coronary sclerosis. She was ninety years old. ²⁰

Requiem mass was offered 24 November at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. In attendance were the Most Reverend Gerald P. O'Hara, Archbishop, and the Most Reverend Thomas J. McDonough, Auxiliary-Bishop. ²¹

Her obituary in the Bulletin tells that she was a member of many organizations, including the Missionary Society, the Catholic Laymen's Association of Georgia, Daughters of the Confederacy, the Georgia Historical Society, Telfair Art Academy, and others. The medal "Pr Ecclesia et Pontifici" was conferred upon her by Pope Pius XI in 1936. She was a devout member of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. She was known for her charity and good works. ²² A cousin who knew her for a long time described her as "thoughtful, responsible, mindful of her duties, and filled with civic pride (for Savannah), a wonderful lady!" ²³



			Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate		
White Mary E	20	F.B			George	
Goodwin Thos	27	M.H	Corn Merchant		(45.)	
Oliver A	68	F.H	Keeping House	\$3,000	\$200	
Grider	140	M.H	Book Keeper			
Law Joseph	16	F.H	at School			
Pakien	12	M.H				
Bright Sarah	40	F.B	Dom Servt			
Middleton W	21	M.B				
Wayne Minty	13	F.B				
Flaney John	34	M.H	Corn Merchant	\$100	Julian	
Mary E	24	F.H	Keeping House		George	
Kate	2	F.H	at Home			
John Mc	1/2	M.H				
McMahon John	50	M.H	Retail Merchant	\$2,000	\$4,000	Julian
Kate	39	F.H	Keep House			
Mary	12	F.H	at School			George
Flaney Joseph	20	M.H	at School			Julian
Brown John	15	M.B	Dom Servt			George
O'Connor Kate	28	F.H	Dom			
White Julia	15	F.H				
Spencer W.H	36	M.H	Pilot	\$500		
Julian	30	F.H	Keeping House			Florida

No. of dwellings, 4 No. of white females, 13 No. of males, foreign born, 3
 " " families, 4 " " colored males, 6 " " females, " " 1
 " " white males, 12 " " " females, 11 " " blind, " "

No. of insane, —

1870 Census

NAME	SHIP	AGE	BIRTHPLACE	OTHER
Flannery John S.		5	Georgia	(46)
Flannery Nora D.		6 1/2	Georgia	

1880 CENSUS—INDEX
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
#2 sec #1

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Flannery John
(HEAD OF FAMILY)

W M 42 Ireland
(SEX) (AGE) (BIRTHPLACE)

Chatham
(COUNTY)

Savannah
(CITY)

Jones
(STREET)

106
(HOUSE NO.)

OTHER MEMBERS OF FAMILY

NAME	RELATION- SHIP	AGE	BIRTHPLACE
Flannery Mary E.	W	35	Georgia
Kate	D	12	Georgia
John M.	S	7	Georgia
Joseph	B	30	Ireland
Alice M.	Si.	28	Ireland

1880 CENSUS—INDEX
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING CO., NEW YORK 9-13-00-00000

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Flannery John

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and five elderly

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ST. JOSEPH SISTERS IN GEORGIA IN 1867

They Labor in Savannah,
Augusta, Atlanta, Wash-
ington, Sharon, Brunswick

The Diocese of Savannah as well as the Diocese of St. Augustine is indebted to the gentle Sulpician Bishop Augustin Verot, Bishop of Savannah and Vicar-Apostolic of Florida, for the Sisters of St. Joseph. Bishop Verot, born in France and ordained in Paris by Archbishop Quelen, killed by Revolutionists when at the suggestion of Frederick Ozanam he went out to plead with the radicals to cease their bloody work, brought nine Sisters of St. Joseph from Le Puy in France to St. Augustine. Three of these he recalled to Savannah, and April 2, 1867, immediately after the close of the War Between the States, the first foundation of the Sisters was made in Georgia in a little house at Perry and Floyd streets, Savannah, with Sister Mary Julia, superior, Sister Mary Josephine and Sister Mary Joseph as members; there were also two postulants in the community.

The Sisters conducted a school for colored children, and were soon put in charge of the home for the white orphan boys of the Diocese, the Barry Male Orphan Asylum. Sister St. Pierre and Sister Clemence came from St. Augustine to assist in the work; Sister St. Pierre died in 1896 and Sister Clemence, later Mother Clemence, in 1910.

After Bishop Verot was transferred to Florida in 1870, and Bishop Persico succeeded him, the Georgia Sisters of St. Joseph became an independent Diocesan community, and a novitiate was opened in Savannah. The orphan home grew, and after two enlargements to accommodate the expanding numbers, it was decided to move the orphanage to Washington, Ga., the beginning of the present St. Joseph's Home there.

* In 1876 the Sisters opened an academy at Washington in a two-story frame building. On January 29, 1878, the Feast of St. Francis de Sales, Sister Francis and three other sisters went to Sharon to open a new mission there; shortly afterward they opened Sacred Heart Seminary for

Sisters of Mercy F to Georgia Ninety

Savannah Sisters Started Work Th
con Sisters Refugees From Florida i

The Sisters of Mercy of the Union in C
back to their founder, Mother Catherine McA
streams, that through Savannah and Charlesto
con and Florida; a few years ago these stream
of Mercy of the Union, to increase the flood o

THE SAVANNAH STREAM

Mother Catherine McAuley, the
saintly foundress of the Sisters of
Mercy, died November 11, 1841, sev-
eral years after the Sisters of Mer-
cy Convent founded in Charleston in
1829 had been affiliated with the Or-
der in Ireland; four years later, June
12, 1845, Father Jeremiah Francis
O'Neil, pastor at Savannah, then in
the Diocese of Charleston, secured
the six Sisters from Charleston for the
convent established on Liberty
Street; they were installed at the
convent June 13, through the cooper-
ation of Bishop Reynolds, the suc-
cessor of Bishop England.

Father O'Neill had already erected
a building; the Sisters opened a
boarding school, a home for orphans,
a pay and a free school, and also a
free school for St. Patrick's Parish;
this was before the schools were
taken over by the city. Mother Mary
Vincent Mahoney was superior, and
she extended the property in 1847,
the year the Sisters became independ-
ent of the Charleston convent.

At the request of Father John Bar-
ry, V. G., pastor of Augusta, the Sis-
ters established a convent there in
1853. The yellow fever broke out the
following year, claiming the lives of
Bishop Gartland and Bishop Barron;
several Sisters died heroically minis-
tering to the victims. There was a re-
currence in 1858, the Sisters then re-
peating their heroic and self-sacrific-
ing service.

During the War Between the
States, 1861-5, the Sisters nursed the
wounded and dying in the parish
property at Augusta, requisitioned by
the Confederacy as military hospit-
als; during the days of the War also
Winnie Davis, daughter of the presi-
dent of the Confederacy, was a
boarder at St. Vincent's Convent, Sa-
vannah.

With the dark days of the war
over, the Sisters, undiscouraged by
the havoc they saw around them,
prepared to extend their work for the
brighter days they felt lay ahead. In
1866 they established a convent in
Macon, which they relinquished five
years later by arrangement with
Bishop later Cardinal Persico to
the Sisters of Mercy, from Florida,

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Jan. 31, 1936 p. 8

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opened Sacred Heart Seminary for boys there.

On October 1, 1894, the Sisters opened Loretto Convent and Academy, a private school on Marietta Street in Atlanta, and they conducted it until 1915. At the invitation of the late Bishop Gunn, then pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Atlanta, the Sisters opened the parish school there September 23, 1909, and eight years later, in 1917, they opened St. Anthony's School, Atlanta, at the invitation of the late Father O. N. Jackson. Sacred Heart and St. Anthony's Schools are now conducted in two of the finest school buildings in the Southeast. Both parishes have also splendid convents for the Sisters

A great sorrow was sent to the Sisters in 1912, when the motherhouse and academy at Washington was burned to the ground. The motherhouse and academy were transferred to Augusta, where again they were faced with difficulties, but finally through the assistance of the generous and beloved benefactress of the Sisters, they were permanently settled in the "Chateau LeVert", where Washington was a guest on his visit to Augusta in 1795, and Lafayette in 1825. Here the Sisters have flourished; the academy has grown through the acquiring of additional residences until it occupies an entire block in the most desirable tourist section of Augusta; through the interest and generosity of the same blessed benefactress; a splendid auditorium has been erected, and there are many other indications of expansion.

The Sisters returned to Savannah October 2, 1916, to take charge of Sacred Heart School, which is now housed in one of the section's most modern educational structures, and the parish has a convent equally as splendid. In 1919, October 1, the school at Brunswick was opened, completing the present category of schools and institutions under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Another milestone in the history of the order was the opening in Washington four years ago of St. Joseph's Home, erected for the boy orphans of the Diocese at a cost of \$100,000, through the generosity of a few men and women of the Diocese who may be counted on the fingers of one's hand.

One of the last acts of the late Holy Father, Pope Benedict XV, was the ratifying February 13, 1922, of the affiliating of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of Savannah with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, thus reuniting these two streams which have their common source at Le Puy, in France. Mother M. Discolla is Mother Provincial for the Province of Georgia; the Sisters regard their inspiring history in the Diocese of Savannah merely as a promise of greater things in the future. Deo Volente.

the Sisters of Mercy from Florida, driven to Columbus by the fortunes of war.

In 1866 the convent in Atlanta at the Church of the Immaculate Conception was established and in 1875 the Sisters at Savannah took charge of the Marine Hospital, then located near the present St. Benedictine's Church. This was the beginning of the present St. Joseph's Hospital; when the orphans were moved to Washington Ga., sixty years ago from the Taylor Street Home, the Home became a hospital. The present splendid hospital conducted by the Sisters in Savannah was made possible through the generosity of the late Captain John Flannery and other golden-hearted benefactors.

Early in their work in Savannah the Sisters of Mercy cared for the orphans, with the coming of the Sisters of St. Joseph they shared this charity, they caring for the girls and the Sisters of St. Joseph for the boys. The Sisters of St. Joseph in 1876 removed the boys to Washington, Ga., and the home for the girls remained in Savannah.

For many years the Sisters cared for the orphan boys out of their own meagre resources, with the aid given them by generous local friends. The home was a local institution, but with the Sisters serving the Diocese as they were, it was deemed an act of justice by the Bishop to assist the Sisters by making it a Diocesan institution with the Diocese responsible for its upkeep. The home under this arrangement and through the untiring efforts of the Sisters has continued to grow with the growth that indicates the blessing of God on work done in His Name and in His way.

St. Vincent's Academy for nearly a century has been one of the outstanding schools not only of Savannah but of the state; it has contributed to the community and state hundreds and thousands of cultured women of beautiful character, and its work there has been duplicated by St. Mary's Academy in Augusta, Sacred Heart School Augusta, and Immaculate Conception School in Atlanta.

One of the great glories of the work of the Sisters in Georgia is their labor for the suffering in St. Joseph's Hospital, Savannah, and St. Joseph's Infirmary, Atlanta. They are regarded as two of the finest hospitals in Georgia; the majority of their patients are not Catholics. In Atlanta only a small fraction is composed of Catholics. When the waves of bigotry and prejudice were most turbulent in Georgia, there were in the state thousands of non-Catholic former patients of these hospitals who fought valiantly against such hatred, inspired by the recollection of the gentle services of these ministering Sisters of Mercy. It was a happy day for the Diocese and for all Georgia when Father O'Neill secured their promise to come to this corner of the Lord's Vineyard.

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Holy Father Confers Medal Pro Ecclesia, Pontifice on Mrs. Kate Flannery Semmes

LEGION MAKING RECORD UNDER E. F. O'CONNOR

Its 1937 Quota Was Filled in November—National Trophy Sought

SAVANNAH, Ga. — The Georgia Department of the American Legion, of which Edward F. O'Connor, Jr., is department commander, reported its quota of 1937 members on November 16, when 9,196, a record number, were registered. The department is now after the national membership trophy.

Thunderbolt to Have Mass Every Sunday

Savannah Suburb Attached to Blessed Sacrament Church as Parish Mission

SAVANNAH, Ga.—Mass will be said regularly hereafter at Bannon Lodge each Sunday at nine o'clock, arrangements having been made by Bishop O'Hara to have the mission served by the Rev. Joseph G. Cassidy, pastor, and the priests of Blessed Sacrament parish.

BISHOP O'HARA presided at the reception of sixty-one young ladies into the Sodality of the Children of Mary in the chapel of St. Vincent's Academy on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Monsignor Croke and Father Malloy assisted Bishop O'Hara in the impressive ceremony; the Sisters of Mercy choir rendered music.

MISS MARGARET GANNON was elected president of the newly organized Study Club of the Cathedral Young People's Association at a recent meeting; John M. Brennan was named secretary. The Rev. Joseph W. Kavanagh is adviser. Mr. Brennan read in interesting paper, "The Catholic Church and Politics", at the meeting.

BENEDICTINE SCHOOL Class of held their first re-

Bishop O'Hara Announces Award to One of Savannah's and the South's Most Beloved Catholics

(Special to The Bulletin)

SAVANNAH, Ga.—The Medal Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice has been conferred by the Holy Father on Mrs. Kate Flannery Semmes of this city, and was presented to Mrs. Semmes by the Most Rev. Gerald P. O'Hara, D. D., at a private ceremony at the Bishops' House last Friday morning. The medal was forwarded from Rome to Bishop O'Hara by His Eminence, Cardinal Pacelli, papal secretary of state. The medal is conferred by the Holy Father on Mrs. Semmes at the request of Bishop O'Hara because of Mrs. Semmes' distinguished services to the cause of religion in Georgia and because of the manner in which she has exemplified Catholic principles in her daily life. The presentation was private at her request.

The Medal or Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice was instituted by Pope Leo XIII July 17, 1888, in memory of his golden jubilee as a priest, and was bestowed on those men and women who had aided the jubilee in some notable way. Ten years later the decoration was made a permanent distinction. The medal is a cross made octangular in form by fleurs-de-lis fixed in the angles of the cross in a special manner. In the center of the cross is a small medal with an image of its founder, and encircling the image are the words Leo XIII, P. M., Anno X (tenth year of his pontificate). On the reverse side are the papal emblems in the center, and in the circle surrounding the emblems the motto "Pro Deo et Pontifice" is stamped. On the obverse side of the branches of the cross are comets, which with the fleurs-de-lis form the coat of arms of the Pecci family. The medal hangs from a ribbon, with the delicate lines of the Papal colors. The decoration is worn on the right side of the breast. "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" means literally, "for the Church and the Pope".

Mrs. Semmes is the daughter of late Captain John Flannery and

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Papal colors. The decoration is worn
on the right side of the breast. "Pro
Ecclesia et Pontifice" means literally,
"for the Church and the Pope".

Mrs. Semmes is the daughter of
the late Captain John Flannery and
Mrs. Mary Ellen Norton Flannery,
whose benefactions to the Church in
Georgia were among the most gen-
erous ever made in the South. Cap-
tain Flannery, who was captain of
the famed Irish Jasper Greens during
the War Between the States, had a
notable career during the conflict;
he entered the cotton business in Sa-
vannah immediately after the war
and became one of Georgia's leading
and most widely respected business
leaders, heading Savannah's largest
bank for twenty-five years and serv-
ing as an official or director of nu-
merous railroads, financial institu-
tions businesses and other enter-
prises.

He was president of the Catholic
Library Fund Association, a member
of the building committee of the
Cathedral built in 1873, and chairman
of the committee on the building of
the present stately edifice after the
previous one was burned in 1898. In
1903 he established a fund for \$50,000
for Catholic institutions of the state,
one of his many benefactions. The
Holy Father, Pope Pius X, then sent
him a handsome medal and an auto-
graphed photograph with a personally
penned blessing in appreciation of his
many services to the Church. He
died a generation ago.

Mrs Semmes' mother, Mrs. Mary
Norton Flannery, was the the daugh-
ter of Patrick Norton and Mrs.
Honora Harty Norton, who with their
relatives came to Locust Grove, Kar-
ren (now Taliaferro County, Geor-
gia, in 1794, "the Cradle of Catho-
licity .8 Georgia", and the family has
ever since been one of the foremost
in the South in the upbuilding of
the Church in this territory.

Mrs. Semmes' husband, Raphael T.
Semmes, was the grandson of Thomas

announced later.

HOLY FATHER HONORS MRS. R. T. SEMMES

(Continued From Page Twenty)

Semmes, of Maryland, lieutenant in the Revolution, who came to Wilkes County, Georgia, in 1800 to join other members of the family who went there in 1794. His father, Dr. Alphonso Thomas Semmes was born in Washington, Ga., graduated at Georgetown University as valedictorian, graduated in medicine in New Orleans, and practiced for many years at Canton, Miss., where Mr. Semmes was born. Mr. Semmes was prominent in the business, social and religious life of Savannah, president of the Semmes Hardware Company, director of the Citizens and Southern Bank, a benefactor of Catholic movements and institutions, and at the time of his death one of the most beloved of Savannah citizens.

Mrs. Semmes has carried on the traditions of the Flannery and Semmes families in her assistance to Catholic institution and Catholic movements, but all her benefactions have been rendered privately and unostentatiously. A notable example of them may be found in Mt. St. Joseph's Academy, Augusta, where she presented the motherhouse and its extensive grounds to the Sisters of St. Joseph when they, through a series of unfortunate financial reverses lost their school. She later supplemented this generous act by acquiring and presenting the adjoining building now known as Flannery Hall. Many other examples of her generosity could be cited, and they are all but indications of the promptings of her generous Catholic heart which influence all her actions and make of her one of Georgia's and the South's most exemplary and beloved children of the Church.

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arrett stressed the fact ildren are individuals se parent's disappoint- them. Children like to of parents as adults an pals and want them standards even though mselves resent it. Good make themselves pro- ly unneeded; thereby their faith in the child goes by.

Clem Dennis gave a re- the Halloween festival was a big success. The d budget for the year roved. After an address sgr. Thomas Sheelan, the meeting was adjourn-

ick, Mrs. Nora Smith, ona Krauss, Mrs. Thomas Mrs. Marie Jenkins, Mrs. a Tetterton, and Mrs. asola.

ing tea and coffee were Mary Jo Peters, Mrs. P. McGinn, Mrs. M. t Flood, Mrs. Frank Cul- Mrs. John Gannom, Mrs. Doyle, Mrs. Owen Porter, Charles McGenzie, and the s of St. Vincent's Acade-

. Joseph E. Kelly, Sr., was arge of the musical pro- Miss Sheila McAleer, Miss a Ulivo, Mr. James Morel, Larry Persee, Mr. Joseph ro accompanied by Mrs. s Morel, Mrs. Joseph ch, and Mrs. Joseph Teger- rendered selections during fternoon and evening.

. William Cauty assisted following ladies in decora- Mrs. James Howe, Mrs. am R. Johnson, Mrs. James lein, and Mrs. Desmond ricolli.

Tea closed with Bene- tion of the Most Blessed Sac- ent.

8
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THE BULLETIN
SATURDAY

and those who are breaking stones every 10 minutes. When wells are being dug, supper is passed over and work continues on an empty stomach until 9:30 in the evening."

REQUIEM MASS FOR MRS. SEMMES

SAVANNAH — Requiem mass was offered November 24th at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist for Mrs. Kate Flannery Semmes.

In attendance at the Funeral Mass were the Most Rev. Gerald P. O'Hara, Archbishop-Bishop of Savannah and the Most Rev. Thomas J. McDonough, Auxiliary-Bishop of Savannah.

Mrs. Semmes was the possessor of the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifici which was conferred upon her by Pope Pius XI in 1936 for her many kind deeds to those in need.

Mrs. Semmes was born in Savannah July 10, 1868, the daughter of the late Capt. John Flannery and Mary Ellen Norton Flannery.

On April 30, 1891, she was married to Raphael T. Semmes of Canton, Miss., who was a cousin and namesake of Admiral Raphael Thomas Semmes of War Between the States fame. They lived in Atlanta for several years after their marriage, returning to Savannah in 1894 when her husband founded the wholesale hardware firm, Semme Hardware Co., which is still in operation although Mr. Semmes died September 4, 1916.

Mrs. Semmes was a devout member of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and was very active in church and charitable work, doing much good of which no one knew but she and the recipient.

Mrs. Semmes was a member of the Missionary Society, the Catholic Lyamen's Assn. of Georgia, Daughters of the Confederacy, the Georgia Historical Society, Telfair Art Academy and many other organizations.

People who have more money than they know what to do with are mighty short in some other department.

ognition should be withheld from governments which do not really represent "the will of the people," he added: (53)

"Almost nobody in China is free to say what he thinks. There is absolutely no freedom."

Recognition, according to the bearded Franciscan prelate, would so weaken the morale of the anticommunist forces in the Far East that many countries would then become easy prey to Red infiltration and eventual control. He mentioned in particular the large Chinese colonies in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaya.

Archbishop Lacchio also said there would be "great disap-

over 300 been killed died in the still betw priests in said. Most, lic contact many can minister U secret in t als.

Archbis American newsmen go to Rec learn the under pre is no acco thus it "v for foreign to China.

Preservation Of Memo Dead Serves Interest O Peace, Pope John XX

VATICAN CITY, (Radio, NC) — Preservation of the memory of the war dead contributes to a fraternal society among men and serves the interests of a just peace, His Holiness Pope John XXIII said here.

The Pontiff addressed members of the British Commonwealth War Graves Commission in a special audience. He told them that, by their care of the graves of the 45,000 British soldiers fallen in Italy, they were doing more than merely discharging a duty to the dead. He said they were also preserving the example and sacrifice of the fallen in the minds of the living.

"Those who have faith want to live in the company and intimacy of their departed ones," the Pope declared. "This is not out of futile nostalgia for the past, or out of incapability of facing up to the duties of the future."

"On the contrary it is in this that we enrich our thoughts and actions with the spiritual and human patrimony passed on to us by previous generations, with all the zeal inspired by the conviction that we are continuing their work, and above all inspired by the Christian hope that we will one day again see the father or that husband who

died at w
"May such spiri religion r supreme added. "B will not t care of gr ute effect a more fr men and cause, so peace."

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SAVAN tion wit Week talk Blessed S Mrs. Wil Adult ad and Bill chairmen.

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“Kate Flannery Semmes” by Dorothy H. Stewart. *The Savannah Biographies*.
volume 17. Minis Collection. Lane Library. Armstrong Atlantic State University.
31419-1997.

Pages 54-114 not copied.

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM

TO THE HONORABLE VICTOR B. JENKINS, JR., ORDINARY OF CHATHAM COUNTY,
GEORGIA:

The Petition of MRS. MARGUERITE HYNES DOYLE, of 118 East 44th Street, Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia and THE CITIZENS AND SOUTHERN NATIONAL BANK, a national banking association, with its principal office at 22 Bull Street, Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia, respectfully shows:

1. That Mrs. Kate Flannery Semmes died November 22, 1958, after having made and published her Last Will and Testament dated January 28, 1946, and leaving an estate consisting of real and personal property.

2. That the said Mrs. Kate Flannery Semmes resided at 211 East Charlton Street, Savannah, Georgia, and was a resident of Chatham County, Georgia at the time of her death.

3. That your Petitioners are named Executors in the said Last Will and Testament of Mrs. Kate Flannery Semmes, deceased, and show that it has heretofore, to-wit on January 29, 1959, been probated in Common Form in this Honorable Court and Letters Testamentary issued to your Petitioners as the nominated executors thereof.

4. That the legatees and devisees under the Will, their ages, addresses and relationship to the Testatrix are as follows:

NAME	AGE	ADDRESS	RELATIONSHIP TO TESTATRIX
Mrs. Marguerite Hynes Doyle	72	118 East 44th Street Savannah, Georgia	Double first cousin

Children of James Scully, deceased:

Michael J. Scully	62	9111-31st Avenue Jackson Heights, L.I., N.Y.	Cousin
Philip Scully	60	10807 35th Avenue Corona, L.I., N.Y.	Cousin
James Scully	58	4307 56th Street Woodside, L.I., N.Y.	Cousin
Frank Scully	53	147 Myers Avenue Hicksville, L.I., N.Y.	Cousin

Widow and children of John Scully, deceased:

Nora Scully (widow) died October 25, 1952

Mrs. Margaret Mary Scully Berger	64	Box 107 South Jamesport, L.I., N.Y.	Cousin
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- 2 -

John T. Scully	55	183, 20-64th Street Flushing, L.I., N.Y.	Cousin
Margaret Mary Grote (Only child of Bridget Mary Scully Grote, de- ceased June 18, 1919)	45	36 Roosevelt Avenue Malverne, L.I., N.Y.	Cousin
John Hill Harty	22	4619 Sylvan Drive Savannah, Georgia	Cousin
Susie McKinney Scott	61	636 E. Park Avenue Savannah, Georgia	No relation
Mamie Williams	53	211 East Charlton St. Savannah, Georgia	No relation
Mary Flannery O'Connor	34	P. O. Box 246 Milledgeville, Georgia	Cousin
Katherine Doyle Groves	42	515 East 45th Street Savannah, Georgia	Cousin
Aloysius Hines	70	Suffolk, Virginia	First Cousin
Marie Hines	65	695 Prince Avenue Athens, Georgia	First Cousin
Mrs. Wm. E. Hines (Widow of Wm. E. Hines)	66	605 Forsyth Apts. Savannah, Georgia	No relation
William E. Hines, Jr.	45	605 Forsyth Apts. Savannah, Georgia	Cousin
Xavier Hines	68	State Sanitarium Milledgeville, Georgia	First Cousin
Mrs. Georgia Shelby Macgowan	62	310 Woodvine Avenue New Orleans 20, La.	No relation
Frank X. Semmes	84	2206 Murphy Avenue Nashville, Tennessee	Brother-in-law
Mrs. Frank X. Semmes	78	2206 Murphy Avenue Nashville, Tennessee	No relation
Joseph Flannery Semmes	41	2206 Murphy Avenue Nashville, Tennessee	No relation
Alphonso Thomas Semmes	43	1035 Draughon Avenue Nashville, Tennessee	No relation
(Raphael T. Semmes died July 29, 1950, leaving no heirs)			
Mary G. Cline	70	P. O. Box 246 Milledgeville, Georgia	Cousin
Katherine H. Schnell	70	57 Front Street Binghamton, N. Y.	Cousin
(Miss Genevieve Harty died about ten years ago leaving no descendants)			
Marcella Harty Keating	60	633 East 41st Street Savannah, Georgia	Cousin
Mary Harty	47	205 East 50th Street Savannah, Georgia	Cousin
(Miss Kate Cline died about ten years ago leaving no descendants)			

- 3 -

Cleo Cline Tarlton	65	c/o Mr. Herbert Cline 21 Park Circle, N. E. Atlanta, Georgia	Cousin
Agnes Cline Florencourt	61	15 Belton Street Arlington 74, Mass.	Cousin
Regina Cline O'Connor	63	P. O. Box 246 Milledgeville, Ga.	Cousin
Kate McK. Treanor Cobb	70	1224 S. Lumpkin Street Athens, Georgia	Cousin
Sally Treanor Orr	68	Carr's Hill Athens, Georgia	Cousin
Mary Treanor Wood	59	1354 S. Lumpkin Street Athens, Georgia	Cousin
Sapelo Treanor	64	Valdosta State College Valdosta, Georgia	Cousin
Helen Treanor	54	1234 S. Lumpkin Street Athens, Georgia	Cousin
(Bertha Ford died about four years ago leaving no descendants)			
Annie Bryson Fowler	71	Powder Springs Road Marietta, Georgia	Cousin
Gertrude Budds Touhey	68	107 Church Street Charleston, S. C.	Cousin
Rev. Alfonso T. Shelby, S.J.	63	808 Springhill Avenue Mobile, Alabama	Godchild
Mrs. Regina Haslam Sullivan	62	927 Carpenter Street Brunswick, Georgia	Godchild
Dr. Hugh G. Mulherin	53	Mobile, Alabama	Godchild
Agnes Dillon Budds	44	2974 Hardman Court, N. E. Atlanta, Georgia	Godchild
Catherine Cary Flocker	35	P. O. Box 444 Washington, Georgia	Godchild
Josephine M. O'Byrne	86	616 Barnard Street Savannah, Georgia	No relation
Flannery Trust Fund		c/o Miss Winifred Moran 701 East 40th Street Savannah, Georgia	
Herbert Cline	59	21 Park Circle, N. E. Atlanta 5, Georgia	Cousin

Children of Frederic G. Doyle, deceased:

Frederic G. Doyle, Jr.	34	215 East 64th Street Savannah, Georgia	Cousin
Marjorie Doyle Woodruff	44	204 Mimosa Drive Rome, Georgia	Cousin
Katherine Doyle Groves	42	515 East 45th Street Savannah, Georgia	Cousin

- 4 -

NAME	ADDRESS
Rector of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, Georgia	c/o Msgr. T. James McNamara 222 East Harris Street Savannah, Georgia
The Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah-Atlanta for the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, Georgia	c/o Most Rev. Thomas J. McDonough 225 Abercorn Street Savannah, Georgia
St. Vincent de Paul Society of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, Georgia	c/o Msgr. T. James McNamara 222 East Harris Street Savannah, Georgia
Our Lady's Aid Society of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, Georgia	c/o Msgr. T. James McNamara 222 East Harris Street Savannah, Georgia
Union Society of Savannah, Ga.	c/o Mr. Julian A. Space, President 101 East Bay Street Savannah, Georgia
Georgia Missionary Society of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, Georgia	c/o Msgr. T. James McNamara 222 East Harris Street Savannah, Georgia
Catholic Laymen's Association of Georgia	c/o Most Rev. Thomas J. McDonough 225 Abercorn Street Savannah, Georgia
St. Thomas Vocational School, Savannah, Georgia	c/o Most Rev. Thomas J. McDonough 225 Abercorn Street Savannah, Georgia
Sisters of St. Joseph in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah-Atlanta	c/o Mother Mary Eulalia Mt. St. Joseph's Convent Augusta, Georgia
Savannah Institute of the Sisters of Mercy for the use of St. Joseph's Hospital, Savannah, Georgia	c/o Sister Mary Incarnata St. Joseph's Hospital Savannah, Georgia
Little Sisters of the Poor of Savannah, Georgia	c/o Good Mother Marguerite 222 East 37th Street Savannah, Georgia

- 5 -

5. That the heirs of the Testatrix, their ages, addresses and relationship to the Testatrix are as follows:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>RELATIONSHIP TO TESTATRIX</u>
Mrs. Marguerite Hynes Doyle	72	118 East 44th Street Savannah, Georgia	Double first cousin
Miss Marie Hines	65	695 Prince Avenue Athens, Georgia	First Cousin
Xavier Hines	68	State Sanitarium Milledgeville, Ga.	First Cousin
Aloysius Hines	70	Suffolk Virginia	First Cousin

6. Petitioners show that all the heirs and legatees are sui juris save only Xavier Hines who resides at the State Sanitarium, Milledgeville, Georgia, and Petitioners pray this Honorable Court appoint a guardian ad litem for said Xavier Hines.

WHEREFORE, Petitioners pray leave to prove the Last Will and Testament of Kate Flannery Semmes dated January 28, 1946 in Solemn Form and that the Letters Testamentary previously issued to your Petitioners when the Will was probated in Common Form be continued in force and that the heirs at law of said deceased and the devisees and legatees be cited to appear at the March Term of the Court of Ordinary of said county to show cause, if any, why said Will should not be proven in Solemn Form and be admitted to record as the true Last Will and Testament of Kate Flannery Semmes, deceased; and why the Letters Testamentary heretofore issued to your Petitioners upon the Probate of said Will in Common Form should not be continued in force and that provision be made for the service of said citation and notice as approved in the amendment to Section 113-607 of the 1933 Code of Georgia, as amended by Georgia Laws 1958, page 657, et seq.

Adams, Adams, Johnson & Burn

ATTORNEYS FOR PROFOUNDERS

NOTES

CHAPTER ONE

¹Raphael Thomas Semmes, The Semmes and Allied Families (The Sun book and job printing, 1918), 132.

²Savannah City Directories, 1867 through 1871, s. v. "Flannery", s. v. "McMahon".

³Semmes, The Semmes and Allied Families, 132.

⁴United States Census of 1870, City of Savannah, Chatham County, Subdivision 21, Number 1200.

⁵Makers of America, Georgia Edition, Volume IV, edited by B. Suttles, (A. B. Caldwell, Atlanta, Georgia, 1912), s. v. "John Flannery".

⁶Telephone interview with Katherine Doyle Groves of Savannah, Georgia, on 16 November 1989.

⁷Will of Kate McMahon, Chatham County Probate Court, File Number 677. Identifies family members and place of residence. Also confirmed by Mrs. Groves in interview.

⁸Makers of America, s.v. John Flannery.
Semmes, The Semmes Family, s.v. Catholics in Georgia.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Makers of America, s.v. John Flannery.

¹²Savannah City Directories, 1867 through 1871, s.v. "Flannery", "McMahon".

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Deed Book Volume 3-O, folio 147, Chatham County Superior Court Clerk's Office.

¹⁵O'Hara, Arthur J., Hibernian Society, Savannah, Georgia: The Story of a Century (Braid and Hutton, Inc., Savannah, Georgia, 1912), 5,6.

- ¹⁶Makers of America, s.v. "Flannery".
- ¹⁷Savannah Newspaper Digest, Daily News Herald, 370.
Savannah City Directories, 1867 through 1871, s.v.
"Flannery", "Guilmartin".
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- ¹⁸O'Hara, The Story of a Century, Roster of Membership,
s.v. "Flannery, John" and "Drummond, E. W.".
- ¹⁹Makers of America, s.v. "Flannery".
- ²⁰Savannah City Directories, 1867 through 1877, s.v.
"John Flannery & Co."
Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1868 through 1891, s.v.
"John Flannery".
- ²¹Chatham County Marriage Index, Marriages 1866-1873, 15.
- ²²Cathedral Baptisms 1855-1870, Diocesan Archives,
Diocese of Savannah (Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 E. Liberty
Street, Savannah, Georgia). See illustration in text;
translation by Jerry Simmons, archivist.

CHAPTER TWO

- ¹Granite Marker in Flannery Lot, Catholic Cemetery,
Savannah, Georgia. See illustration in text.
Will of Kate McMahon says he was named for her husband.
- ²Telephone interview with Mrs. Groves on 16 November
1989 says that Katie considered the McMahons to be her grand-
parents, although they were actually her great-aunt and -uncle.
Her actual grandmother had remarried Mr. James Hines of
Washington after the death of her husband. Their son,
James Hynes, was Mary Ellen Norton Flannery's half-brother.
- ³U. S. Census of 1870, s.v. "John Flannery".
- ⁴Flannery marker in Catholic Cemetery.
- ⁵Death Certificates, 1871, Chatham County Vital Records,
Eisenhower Drive, Savannah, Georgia.
- ⁶Flannery marker in Catholic Cemetery.
- ⁷Savannah City Directories, 1872 through 1875.

- ⁸Chatham County Vital Records, 1873, s.v. "Flannery".
- ⁹Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1873, s.v. "Flannery".
- ¹⁰Chatham County Vital Records, 1875, s.v. "Flannery".
- ¹¹Savannah City Directory, 1875, s.v. "McMahon, John".
- ¹²Savannah City Directory, 1879, s.v. "Flannery, Alice".
United States Census of 1880, Volume 4, Enumeration
District 24, Sheet 10, Line 37. Soundex File Number F456,
s.v. "John Flannery".
- ¹³Chatham County Probate Court, Marriage Licenses,
Volume B, page 476.
- ¹⁴Flannery marker in Catholic Cemetery.

CHAPTER THREE

- ¹Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1882, s.v. "Katie Flannery".
- ²Savannah City Directory, 1882, s.v. "John Flannery".
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Savannah-1884, (Sanborn
Map Publishing Co., 115 Broadway, New York, N. Y.) s.v.
"130 Hull Street".
- ³Savannah City Directory, 1874, s.v. "Southern Bank".
- ⁴O'Hara, Story of a Century, 13.
- ⁵Will of John McMahon, Chatham County Probate
Court, File Number M582.
- ⁶Lafayette Ward Book, Georgia Historical Society,
Lot 40, 1881, 1882. McMahon bought the property and sold
one-third of it to W. G. Raoul. Mary Douglass got the eastern
two-thirds, with 207 and 209 E. Charlton Street houses.
- ⁷The Bulletin of the Catholic Laymen's Association,
31 January 1936, "St. Joseph Sisters in Georgia in 1867", 8.
- ⁸Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1887, 1888, s.v. "Mrs.
John Flannery".
- ⁹Will of Kate McMahon. See Appendix.

- ¹⁰Chatham County Superior Court, Deed Book 3-0, f.147.
- ¹¹Chatham County Superior Court, Deed Book Volume 6-I, folio 371.
- ¹²Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1889, s.v. "Flannery".
- ¹³Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1891, s.v. "Miss Katie Flannery".
- ¹⁴Makers of America, s.v. "Raphael Thomas Semmes".
- ¹⁵Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1870 through 1891, s.v. "John Flannery".
- ¹⁶Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1891, s.v. "John Flannery"; A Chronological History of Savannah, A. E. Sholes, compiler, 1900. Special Collection, Brunswick Regional Library, Brunswick, Georgia. "Important stories of 1891-cotton receipts hit one-million mark".
- ¹⁷Savannah Newspaper Digest, 1891, s.v. "John Flannery".

CHAPTER FOUR

- ¹Diary of Bishop Thomas A. Becker 1886-1889, (Savannah Diocese Archives). Translation provided by Jerry Simmons, archivist.
- ²Atlanta City Directories, 1891 through 1896, (various publishers and printers). Supplied through Interlibrary-loan, Brunswick Regional Library, and Atlanta Public Library.
- ³Savannah City Directory, 1897, s.v. "Raphael T. Semmes", "John Flannery".
- ⁴Chatham County Vital Records, Deaths 1899, "Mary Ellen Flannery".
- ⁵Will of Mary Ellen Flannery, Chatham County Probate Court, File F348.
- ⁶Ibid, File F355, "Joseph Flannery".
- ⁷Ibid, File F559, "John McMahon Flannery".
Chatham County Vital Records, Deaths 1900, "John McMahon Flannery".
- ⁸Chatham County Vital Records, Deaths 1910, "John Flannery".

⁹United States Census of 1900, Volume 11, Enumeration District 67, Sheet 1², Line 20. Soundex File number F456, s.v. "John Flannery".

¹⁰Will of John Flannery, Chatham County Probate Court, File F438.

¹¹The Bulletin, "Sisters of Mercy...", 31 Jan 1936.

¹²Ibid, "Holy Father Confers Medal", 19 Dec 1936.

¹³Gregory Murphy, Builders of Georgia (Atlanta, 1941), s. v. "John Flannery".

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵Will of John Flannery.

¹⁶Savannah City Directories, 1898 through 1958, selected editions, i.e., every five years, etc.
Makers of Georgia, s.v. "Semmes".

¹⁷Chatham County Vital Records, Deaths 1916, s.v. "Raphael Thomas Semmes".

¹⁸Flannery lot, granite marker, Catholic Cemetery.

¹⁹Interview with Mrs. Groves on 16 Nov. 1989.

²⁰Will of Raphael Thomas Semmes, Chatham County Probate Court, File S1084.

CHAPTER FIVE

¹Ibid.

²Deed Book Volume 17-W, folios 454, 455, 470. Chatham County Superior Court Clerk's office.

³Will of Kate F. Semmes, Chatham County Probate Court, File S255.

Interview with Mrs. Katherine Groves.

⁴Savannah City Directories, 1924 through 1928, s.v. "O'Connor Edward F., Jr."

Interview with Mrs. Katherine Groves.

⁵Savannah City Directories, 1927 through 1930, s.v. "211 E. Charlton Street".

Chatham County Tax Assessor's Office, Property Description Card PIN Number 032 08 03, Lot 41 and East 19 Feet of Lot 40 Lafayette Ward. Dated 8-22-61.

⁶Robert Coles, Flannery O'Connor's South (Louisiana State University Press, 1980), 165.

⁷The Bulletin, "Holy Father Confers Medal".

⁸Stanley Edgar Hyman, Flannery O'Connor, Pamphlets on American Writers, Number 54 (University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1966), 5.

⁹Barbara McKenzie, Flannery O'Connor's Georgia (University of Georgia Press, 1980), xiii.

¹⁰Hyman, Flannery O'Connor, 19.

¹¹Ibid, 39.

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¹³Savannah Morning News, 2 February 1941, 32/4.

¹⁴Chatham County Superior Court Grantee Index 1940, Kate F. Semmes as grantee from Edward F. O'Connor, Deed Book Vol. 35-D, folio 390. Deed.

¹⁵Will of Kate F. Semmes.

¹⁶Diary of Eleanor and Marie Bennett, 1958 Diocesan Lourdes Centennial Pilgrimage, 1. (Diocesan Archives, Diocese of Savannah)

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¹⁷Barbara McKenzie, Flannery O'Connor's Georgia , xxii to xxx.

¹⁸The Correspondence of Flannery O'Connor and the Brainard Cheneys, edited by C. R. Stephens (University of Mississippi Press, Jackson and London, 1986).

¹⁹Ibid.
Will of Kate F. Semmes.

²⁰Chatham County Vital Records, Deaths, Volume 156, page 1499, Semmes.

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